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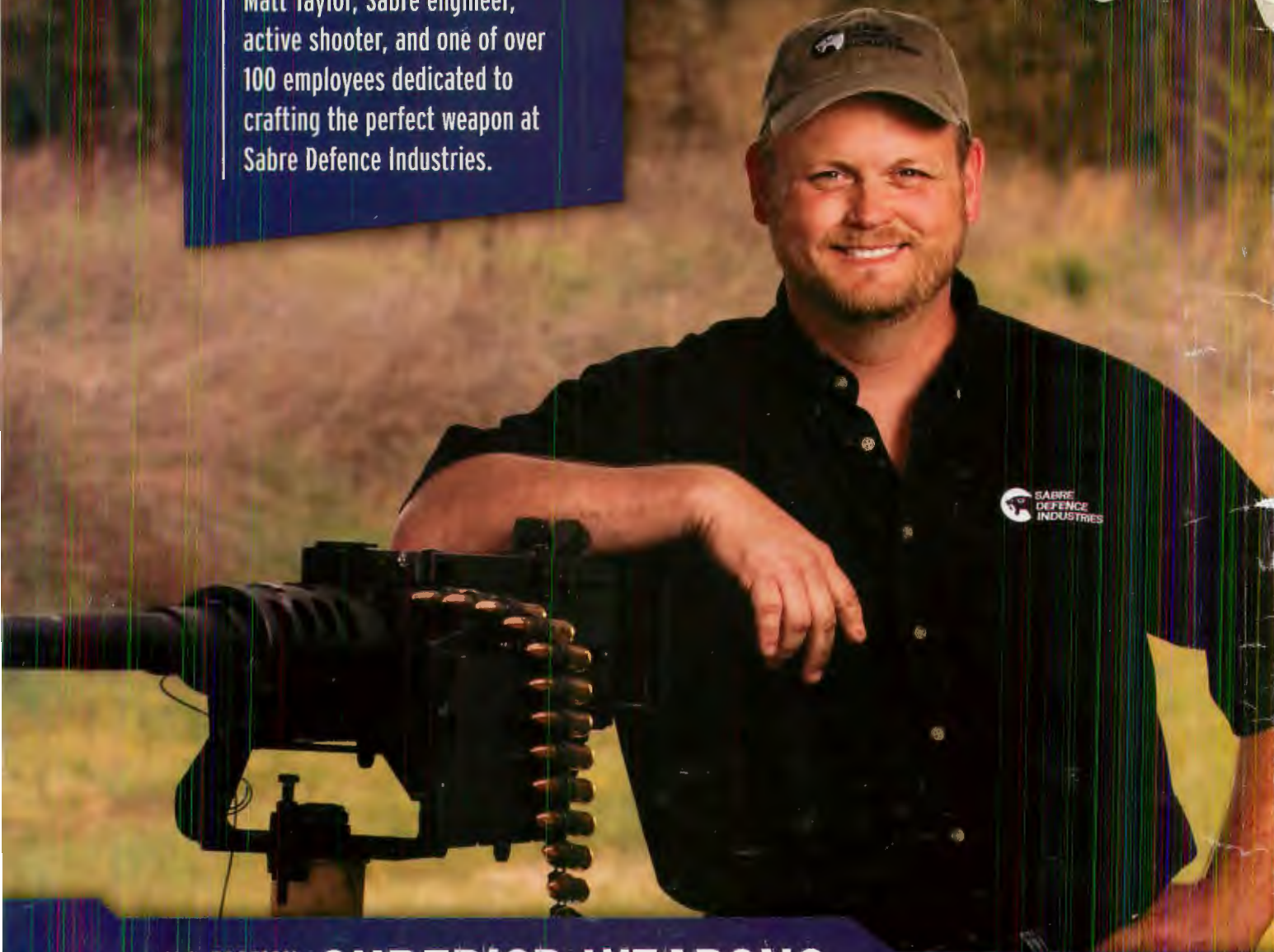


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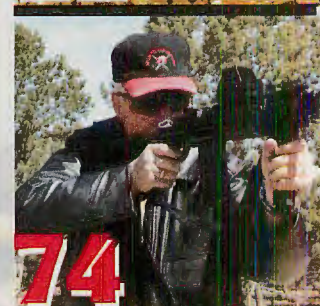
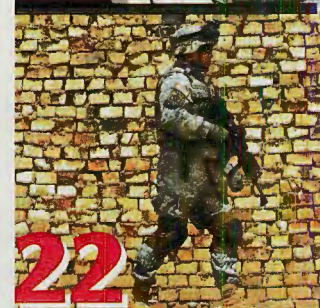
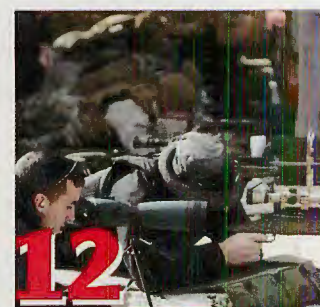
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ON THE COVER

Harry Clafin, a warrior's warrior: don't miss his story in "Portrait of a Warrior," starting this issue!



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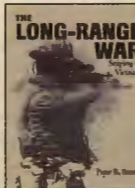
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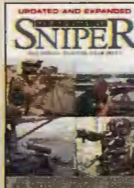
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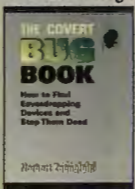
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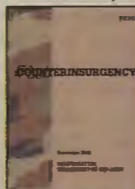
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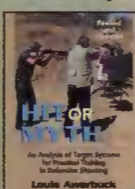
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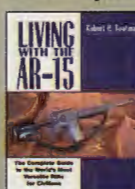
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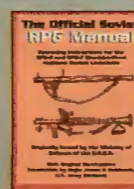


THE OFFICIAL SOVIET RPG MANUAL

translated by

Maj. James F. Gebhardt (Ret.)

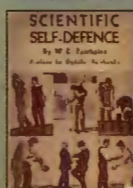
The Soviet RPG-7 is one of the deadliest weapons in the insurgent arsenal in Iraq. In this exclusive translation of the original Soviet military instruction manuals, James Gebhardt presents the maintenance and operational information for the RPG-2 and the RPG-7. A must for anyone interested in military operations past, present and future. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, illus., 142 pp. #RPG \$20.00



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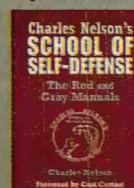


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COMMAND GUIDANCE

By Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.)

ENOUGH TO GAG A MAGGOT

Enough to gag a maggot. That's my take on the Marine Corps effort to hang out to dry members of Kilo Company, 3rd Bn, 1st Marine Regiment, who are being keel-hauled for allegedly shooting 24 "innocent" civilians on 19 November 2005.

I've watched this kangaroo-court-in-the-mainstream-media for months in conjunction with SOF contributing reporter Nat Helms, Navy Cross recipient, who also is the author of the best-selling war story, *My Men Are My Heroes*, which is the saga of Marine First Sergeant Brad Kasel, who earned the nations second highest award for valor in a bloody shoot-out in Fallujah.

SOF has not published anything on the Haditha screw-up.

But now it is time to speak out!

Just recently, in a column in NewsMax.com, Phil Brennan, former Marine and star reporter for NewsMax.com, detailed how until the middle of June, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service had withheld exculpatory evidence that appears in eight hours of taped testimony provided by the then Battalion S-2, Cpt. Jeffery Dinsmore, that up to now had been classified. Brennan's column revealed the following:

1. Marine intel in advance of the Haditha shootout, revealed that it was known that an insurgent ambush was planned for that day;

2. Though details of the ambush were not known, it was known that 20 insurgents would take part and that a white car would play an important role in the ambush;

3. This info was made available to the troops of Kilo Company, including Sgt. Frank Wuterich, who has been charged with murdering the occupants of a white car that arrived on scene after the IED explosion that killed one Marine. The evidence will show that he acted appropriately when he lit up the vehicle's passengers;

4. The mainstream media reports that 24 innocent civilians were killed, but intel documents indicate that four of the five in the white car killed by Wuterich, plus four others, were insurgents;

5. THE INSURGENTS WHOSE COMMUNICATIONS HAD BEEN INTERCEPTED (WHICH REVEALED THE PLANNED AMBUSH), were the SAME TWO MEN who were the sources of the Time magazine story that resulted in the charges being brought against the Marines!

The mainstream media comes out of this travesty with two black eyes. Helms developed many close contacts with the Marines of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, who provided him with unparallel insights into the whole Haditha fiasco. Helms for months attempted to interest the New York Times, the New Yorker, the Washington Post, and others in the fact that the two Iraqis who provided the "incriminating" tapes to Tim McGirk of Time had been identified as insurgents through the monitoring of their cell phones by Marine intel. They, were interested in picking his mind but refused to publish his well-documented article.

Helms points out that Ellen Kickmeyer, who took the word of a so-called "Iraqi witness" from Haditha reported that the men in the white cab "happened on the scene inadvertently". Media reports characterized the four men as "college students" on their way to school. Not surprisingly, there have been no "clarifications" or "retractions" regarding this travesty. Nor do I expect to see any from the main stream media, even though careers of Marines risking their lives have been ruined and the reputation of the Corps besmirched.

This certainly is not the finest hour of those in the Marine Corps chain-of-command who have allowed this insidious farce to proceed.

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SOF SEEKING TIM BUSKELL OR Spc. Jonathan Kephart's family. In an electronic glitch, their emails were deleted. Please contact us.

Tal Afar Tally

I read with interest Tim Buskell's article on his mission in Tal Afar in your May edition. A couple of statements need a little adjustment in my opinion: It was Tim's command that dictated his mission, not me. I was only a facilitator. Tim's team was chosen by his commander because they were trained, as snipers, to work independently and exercise good judgment. While I had no authority or say in this selection, I concurred with it.

Tim's team's mission was the corner stone of an overall plan which in the end provided the coalition and Iraqi Security Forces with 40 - 50 % of the popular support of the civilians in the highly contested city of Tal Afar. There

was a lot of planning which went into this mission to ensure that Tim had a QRF within minutes of his location and also air support only minutes away. Tim's team performed the mission flawlessly in my opinion, and accomplished exactly what the command desired and I don't think Tim knows how important it was to the end state of his unit's mission in Tal Afar. I thank Tim for using only my pseudonym in the article and I ask that the staff of Soldier of Fortune magazine will also respect my privacy. I hope Tim and all the members of his element are having great success in their lives.

Sincerely,
Rover

U.S.S. Conway

My ship the U.S.S. Conway — DDE 507 — went into the Bay of Pigs on the night of April 19, 1961. We picked up about 20 to 30 *Brigadistas* that were swimming out to us. Many were wounded. We put a

small boat into the water and went in after them. Some of us jumped into the Sea to help pull them out.

When we had them on board and could find no more we pulled out of the area and headed to Guantanamo Bay.

These were brave men and every sailor on my small ship did all we could for them. We felt so angry at our government. We were right there with a fleet of ships and planes and could have blasted the Commies to hell if only we were given the OK.

Armando Triana, Pelayo Garcia, Manuel Vasconcelos, Jose Aguila... these are some of the names of the brave Cubans who I remember from that night so long ago. I was only 18 years old and from that night on I became a supporter of everything Anti-Castro.

The government of the United States betrayed the people of Cuba on April 17th, 1961.

The American and Cuban people are still paying for that betrayal. *ViVa Cuba Libre!! Abajo el Castro-comunismo asqueroso!*

Henry Agueros

Wrong Fortress

You misidentified the B-17 Flying Fortress as a "Superfortress," when shown on Page 66 of the August issue, flying in formation with a B-52 Stratofortress. The Superfortress was the B-29.

Jerry Gilmore (USAF, retired)

Oops. And mea culpa. These big birds tend to look the same to a grunt looking up... For comparison, here is the last airworthy B-17 Flying Fortress in the UK, on a run over the Cambridge American Military Cemetery (DoD photo by Amn. Jessica Struble USAF); a B-29 Superfortress on a bomb run over Korea in 1951 (DoD photo courtesy Air and Space Museum; and a B-52 Stratofortress taking off from Edwards AFB with two engines running on an experimental natural gas-based fuel (USAF photo by Chad Bellay).



B-17



B-29



B-52

I flew F4s in the 432nd Tac Fighter Reconnaissance Wing at Udorn, RAFB from June, 1972 through July, 1973. As many of you know, I flew during both Linebacker campaigns, when we took heavy losses and left many of my buddies behind in POW camps or officially "missing."

Four of our Wing squadrons were comprised of F4 fighters, but one was a recce squadron, hence the name "Recce Wing" instead of Tac Fighter Wing. During the last few months of my tour, I flew escort missions with the recce F4s. Once per week a photo recce mission would fly over three major Pathet Lao bases, including one at Sam Neua. I did not see the pictures, but the pilots and intelligence people advised me over and over again that the mission was "to count noses" of round-eyes looking up from inside POW camps in that country. The count was 356 when I

continued on page 34





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Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno, center, Commander of Multi-National Corps - Iraq, inspects Zaganiyah Patrol Base with 1SG Royce Manis, right, of the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cav Regiment. The general was visiting newly established bases to answer questions and thank the troops for their service. Photo: DoD by Sgt. Jessica Kent, USMC

If These Statistics Are Accurate....

Regardless of where you stand on the issue of the U.S. involvement in Iraq, here's a sobering statistic.

There has been a monthly average of 160,000 troops in the Iraq theatre of operations during the last 22 months, and a total of 2,867 deaths (when these stats were compiled).

That gives a firearm death rate of 60 per 100,000 soldiers.

The firearm death rate in Washington D.C. is 80.6 per 100,000 persons for the same period.

That means that you are about 25% more likely to be shot and killed in the U.S. Capital than you are in Iraq.

Conclusion: The U.S. should pull out of Washington.

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We get constant requests for people wanting to link up with other good people who want to support our troops. Here's an outfit, now going into its 4th year of volunteer service, that we can recommend as one that is

totally honest and caring - and that passes on every penny or parcel of aid to the troops. They are all volunteers and put more than their time into the effort, and they have touched many thousands of GI's in Iraq and Afghanistan. All donations are tax-deductible, every shred of it goes to the troops: How good does it get?

It's easy! Go to: www.soldiersupport.net and check 'em out.

Poll: 1 in 4 OK With Homicide Bombings Against

According to a poll by the Pew Research Center, among America's younger Muslims, 26 percent say homicide bombings can at least rarely be justified "in order to defend Islam from its enemies."

continued on page 66

Atta Boy, Texas!

The State of Texas has passed three laws of significance to gun owners and decent people everywhere: HB 220 allows concealed weapons in the parking lots controlled by employers that otherwise prohibit them in other company areas. That way, employees can arm themselves as soon as they get in their cars at the end of the day and thus not be compelled to drive to and from work, unarmed.

SB112 prohibits seizure, by any unit of government, of lawfully owned weapons, even during "emergencies."

SB384 eliminates a "duty" for anyone to "retreat" from criminal assault when in any place they otherwise have a right to be. It also shields citizens from civil liability when they practice legitimate self-defense.

Home Defense 101

Two illegal aliens, Raphael Resindez 23 and Enrico Garza 26, probably believed they would easily overpower a home-alone 11-year-old Patricia Harrington after her father had left their two-story home.

The two crooks did not consider, however, that they were in Montana and that Patricia had been a



An Iraqi Army soldier assigned to the 3rd Bn, 2nd Brigade, 6th Division readies his Tabuk assault rifle during a raid in Sadr City, in Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Based on the AKM, the Tabuk rifle is produced in Iraq. Photo: DoD by SPC Gul A. Alisan, USA

clay-shooting champion since she was nine. Miss Harrington was in her upstairs room when the two men broke through the front door of the house. She quickly ran to her father's room and grabbed his 12-gauge Mossberg 500.

Resindez was the first to get up to the second floor, only to be the first to catch a blast of buckshot, suffering fatal wounds to his abdomen and genitals. When Garza ran to the foot of the stairs, he took a blast to the left shoulder and staggered out into the street where he bled to death before medical help could arrive.

It turns out that Resindez was armed with a stolen .45 caliber handgun he took from another home-invasion robbery, wherein the victim, 50-year-old David Burien, was killed with multiple stab wounds to the chest.





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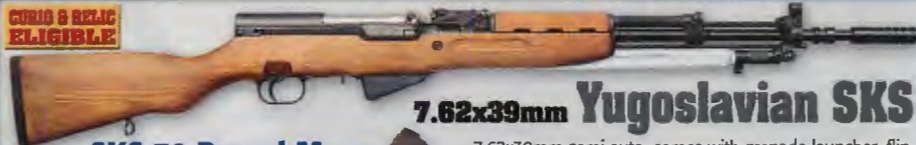
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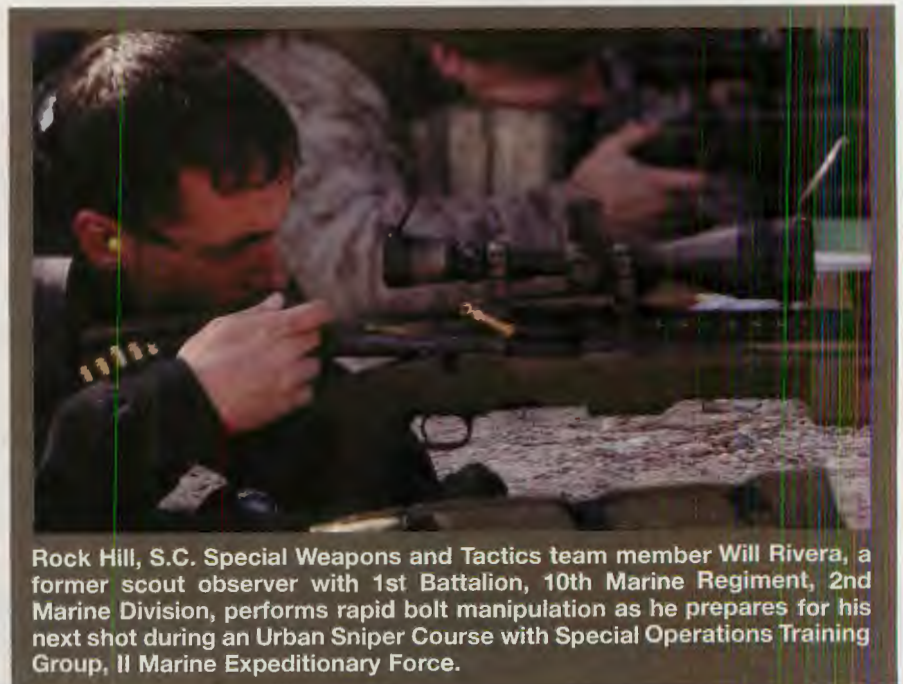
Text and Photos by Lance Cpl. Christopher Lyttle, II MEF

Rock Hill, S.C. Special Weapons and Tactics team members Will Rivera (left) and Tony Breeden practice command drills during an Urban Sniper Course with Special Operations Training Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force. Rifle stocks are the Choate Ultimate Sniper stock, designed by John Plaster

Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune — Marine graduates of the Scout Sniper Basic Course, along with Special Weapons and Tactics officers from Rock Hill, S.C., improved their combat capabilities in a three-week Urban Sniper Training Course at Stone Bay, with Special Operations Training Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

“The overall focus of the course is to get shooters to fire to the capabilities of their weapons systems,” said Sgt. Travis Toney, Urban Sniper Course lead instructor, SOTG, II MEF. “We also train students to achieve instant incapacitation of an enemy in a combat situation.” The course helps snipers develop control and accuracy in firing and handling several weapons systems, including the M40A3 sniper rifle, in an urban warfare environment.

Toney described key parts of the



Rock Hill, S.C. Special Weapons and Tactics team member Will Rivera, a former scout observer with 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, performs rapid bolt manipulation as he prepares for his next shot during an Urban Sniper Course with Special Operations Training Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force.



SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE STOP

ROOKIE OFFICER WITH A GUN JAMMED IN HIS NECK

MUZZLE FLASHES

A VETERAN PARTNER GOES DOWN



This SureFire rechargeable flashlight is owned by veteran officer Mike Daniel of the Boulder City Police Department, Nevada. It stopped a bullet fired by a convicted felon wanted for attempted murder. Officer Daniel got back on his feet, returned fire and stopped the felon who was trying to murder his partner. After being shot the flashlight still operated.

SureFire flashlights are built for combat. They're so bright they can temporarily blind a threat. They're guaranteed for life. This guarantee includes incoming fire. Officer Daniel received a free replacement.

Hats off to Medal of Valor recipients; Officers Mike Daniel, Mike Barth and Scott Pastore for their courage and actions under fire.

surefire.com/truestories

SUREFIRE



Sgt. Travis Toney (left) and Sgt. Kenneth Burdine (right), Urban Sniper Course instructors, Special Operations Training Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force, assist a Marine sniper with his firing technique during a live-fire event. The focus of the course is to allow snipers to shoot to the capabilities of their weapons systems.

course to Marine and law enforcement snipers alike, to expand on their skills previously learned in sniper school: "In week one, the course started with shooters attaining a zero with their rifle. This [calibration] assures their point of aim is matched with their point of impact on a target," Toney said.

Each day, the weapon must be adjusted to the correct zero. Cpl. Eric Rue, Urban Sniper Course instructor, describes the most important shot of each training day — the cold-bore shot: "A clean rifle may contain solvents in the barrel, and the first shot will always differ from the rest after the barrel has built up carbon and copper residue," Rue said. "Every training



Staff Sgt. John Bailly, a team leader with Company D, 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, posts shot targets on a silhouette during an Urban Sniper Course with Special Operations Training Group, II MEF.

day, snipers will collect data from a cold bore shot. We put the biggest emphasis on it because a sniper's first shot is his most important."

The T-Box

During their training and for combat purposes, the importance of the cold bore shot involves an accurate hit in a silhouette target's

T-box, which is a sketch of an enemy combatant's face, with an outlined T-shaped section. Toney noted that a round striking an enemy's lower brainstem through the T-box will end all bodily functions, including voluntary and involuntary motor skills, eliminating the threat.

After a cold bore shot, color-dot drills are performed, which consist of multiple targets that shooters engage on their own silhouette.

"Color-dot drills get the shooter's mind set on looking for color targets, emphasizing a common trend for shooting multiple threats. Each drill is conducted with five rounds fired in 12 seconds."

In week two, color-dot drills are combined with command drills, enabling shooters to fire upon an instructor's command. "A team coordinates on assigned numbers," Rue said. "Each number corresponds to an action performed by members of a crisis team to create a deliberate

assault on a key target."

Commands given during the drill require close attention from shooters. For realism, they lay in a prone position wearing a full combat load. As they prepare to fire from 100, then 200 yards, preparatory commands are recited. Shooters will hear a repeated, "I have con-

continued on page 41



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THE BATTLE OF BIAP



When Sgt. Robert Smith's rig got blasted by an IED south of Baghdad, McCormick's gun trucks sealed the route for a dustoff to land. Smith survived this one – and recently returned home after a second tour in Iraq.

There is good reason that all Army troops first go through basic infantry training before they go on to specialized schools, many of which are to prepare them for "support" missions. The reason is that in war, "support" troops such as signal, transportation, quartermaster and so on will often have to fight as infantry, either to accomplish their support mission or to aid infantry. With the war in Iraq, even blue-water Navy and Air Force troops are going through newly designed combat schools.

And this infantry training and imbued fighting spirit has stood them in good stead. The action at hand involves mobilized National Guard transportation corps troops of the 1487th Medium Truck Company who took the fight to the enemy and prevailed in an action that would have made any infantry commander proud.

The best measure of heroism is to listen closely to the stories soldiers tell about others. The best of these stories tend to take on lives of their own and grow into legend. Probably the best flattery to any hero is when others claim credit for having participated in the same action. For truck drivers in

DEATH-DEALING DOUBLE-CLUTCHERS DRIVE BACK INSURGENT ATTACK, PART II

by Richard E. Killblane

Photos Courtesy Capt. James McCormick

Iraq, one of the greater stories of heroism occurred on 11 April 2004 when truck drivers beat back an insurgent attack on the south wall of Baghdad International Airport, more commonly known as BIAP.

Last Month 2LT James McCormick and a crew of volunteers from the 1487th were geared up and ready to go when insurgents tried to breach the wall at BIAP with a force of approximately 40, including crew-served weapons such as mortars. They responded immediately and returned fire – but did not know they would have to go it largely alone.

McCormick asked the men in the tower to call for air support since BIAP was an airfield. The soldiers told him that air support was not needed. The lieutenant then instructed Noble to call 3rd Platoon, 1487 for their 5-ton gun truck

because it mounted a Mk 19 40mm auto grenade launcher. Noble relayed the message that the platoon sergeant said he did not want to risk the lives of his soldiers since it was the responsibility of the QRF to defend the wall. McCormick responded,

"I guess we're on our own" Later the five-ton did drive up but this was after the fight was over and too late to make the impact that Lt. McCormick had hoped for.

SPC Alan Dumont and Adam Houck had just finished eating lunch and not two steps out the door he and Dumont heard a .50 firing like mad and they knew a fight was on. They sprinted to the "Eve," which was parked with other gun trucks in their own area near the dining facility. While getting in the gun truck, they saw SSG Brian Torres, SPC Chris Marion, SGT Josh Frey, SPC Jason Bollman, and SPC Slawomir Tarowski, Jack Marticic, Jason Bollman, and Mike Makiowski putting their battle rattle on. Houck looked back and asked Dumont where he wanted the gun



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truck. He was wondering, "How the hell am I gonna engage these guys." Dumont told him, "Put me 100 meters from the wall." That way he was far enough back to shoot over the wall. So Houck pulled the Eve up 100 meters behind and to the left of the Zebra.

Not a minute after halting, the others came running up to the gun truck. These were the same men who courageously went out the gate with the Eve on Friday. The funny thing was that they were wearing their PT uniforms during this fight.

Dumont yelled at the Zebra crew on the ramp to spot for his Mk-19 grenade launcher. McCormick yelled back, "They're everywhere!"



McCormick's driver Bryan Noble gives a thumbs up by a shot-up windshield. Sadr militia's marksmanship was up to the job - their weapon, thankfully, was not.

Get that Mark 19 going." So Dumont started firing the Mk19 in a standard suppressive array, left to right. The field in front of the wall started exploding from the 40mm rounds pumped out by Dumont's Mk19 and Noble's M203. McCormick started yelling, "Yeah, yeah, yeah!" Dumont was blind to the impacts, but judging by the lieutenant's reaction he knew he was getting the job done.

McCormick looked over his shoulder and yelled for more help but saw some Soldiers running away. The front part of the HMMV would not let him depress his .50 low enough to engage the men behind the berm. One driver from the 1487th came up to the base of

the ramp and Lawson went down and took his SAW. Lawson then fired into the canal. McCormick then picked up his M16 to also engage. For 15 minutes, the crew of the Zebra and the two men in the guard tower held off the insurgents.

A Little Help From Their Friends

After 15 minutes of fighting, SFC Tim Haggard, from 1st Platoon, 1487th, arrived with his M915 gun truck and pulled up to the right of the ramp. It had a higher platform, so he could see over the wall. Haggard climbed up on the wall, identified targets and directed fire of the Mk 19 gunner. After another five minutes of fighting more truck drivers came up and joined them.

1SG Ronald "Ron" Partin, SGT Christopher "Chris" M. Lehman, and SGT Matthew D. Eby of the 1486th Medium Truck were sitting next to their HMMV gun truck parked next to the west wall when they heard gunfire to the south. They quickly cut their poncho shade away from their HMMV and donned their bal-



This ribbon of tarmac could be any of a dozen routes through the American Southwest - except that this route is lined with ambushes, roadside IEDs, drive-by shooters and assorted assassins.

listic vests. 1SG Partin organized the other drivers into a defense. Lehman climbed into the gun turret and began loading his Mk 19 while Eby drove their HMMV gun truck up to the wall. When they arrived, they saw the Zebra and its crew up on the ramp.

SGT Thomas "Tom" R. Butler, Jr. was returning from lunch when he heard the small arms and mortar fire. He ran to his HMMV where SSG Thomas G. Stewart, Jr., SGT Charles "Chuck" M. Gregg, SGT Hernandez, and SPC White joined him. They climbed in their gun truck and raced to the ramp. They yelled, "Hey Lieutenant, let us get up there and get some." The men then ran up the ramp next to the Zebra and fired their SAWs at the house on their

One limiting factor of wheeled transport vehicles is that they must follow the road, or tactically worse, follow a specific route. The busy routes to BIAP often lead through heavily built-up areas, prime hiding places for IEDs and ambushers.



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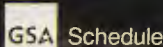
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If you're going to engage, kick ass and take prisoners, you are obliged to bring them in. Here the Lieutenant rides shotgun with a couple detainees.

left. There was not enough room on the ramp for all 10 truck-drivers so they fought in turns. A team of two SAW gunners on the left side of the HMMV and a team of M16 riflemen on the other would empty their weapons at the enemy then withdraw behind the Zebra to reload to drink Gatorade while the next teams replaced them. Blue went behind the HMMV, handed out the extra ammunition, changed barrels on the SAWs and reloaded M16 magazines. This way the men kept up a steady rate of fire.

About that time, a 96th HET convoy accompanied by the tanks of the 1st Armored Division arrived at the south gate and saw Soldiers in "full battle rattle" in prone positions. 1st Lieutenant Ishaq Khan asked what was going on. Someone answered, "Sir, the insurgents are attacking the wall." Then a couple mortar rounds landed in the staging area but did not hit anything. The drivers climbed out of their HETs and dropped down into prone positions. An Abrams tank drove toward the ramp. The brigade commander climbed up and took charge of the tower.

And A Bigger Gun

The colonel realized that the berm masked the enemy mortar position from the Zebra's .50, so he suggested to McCormick, "Let the Mk 19 get up there and see what it can do." He wanted the Mk 19 to engage the enemy mortars. McCormick told Noble to get in the Zebra and back it off the ramp. The HMMV jerked back catching McCormick by surprise, causing him to fire a .50 cal round that grazed the roof of his HMMV. While backing off, seven rounds hit the

Zebra's windshield shattering glass in Noble's face. Infuriated, Noble climbed out of the HMMV and fired his M203 at an insurgent in a tree to his front killing the insurgent. He was in such a rage that he later had no memory of doing it. After the Zebra pulled off the ramp, SGT Lehman's HMMV replaced them.

McCormick had fired 500 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition and the Zebra had been hit 14 times that week. After 30 minutes of fighting, he was exhausted. McCormick saw his men laugh and cry in the same minute, the side effects of adrenaline. Richardson treated Noble's wounds. Richardson had also received bullet fragments in the arm. Sometime during the fight, Noble was also hit in the leg with slivers of shrapnel but he did not know it at the time. The crew of the Zebra returned to the fight on the ramp, McCormick organized the now 10 drivers on the ramp and ordered them to volley fire and support the Mk 19 gunner. Each time he would lead the men up to the wall and empty magazine after magazine into the enemy, who had now retreated and hidden behind berms and a house.

Sergeant Eby and Lehman saw a number of insurgents maneuvering from the building on their left

to the irrigation ditches. They also identified the mortar behind the berm. Sergeant Butler directed Lehman to fire at the mortar position: 10 to 15 rounds later, the mortar ceased to fire. After five minutes of firing, Lehman yelled that his Mk 19 was out of ammunition so Eby crawled on top of the HMMV and helped him load a second box into the tray. Eby informed Lehman that he saw another mortar at a berm 300 meters away. By that time, McCormick and Noble came up to the ramp and spotted a third mortar tube 800 to 900 meters away. After Lehman emptied that box of ammunition, he called down for more and Eby repeated the same reloading process.

Break For A Body Count

After 30 to 40 minutes of fighting, the truck drivers saw insurgents in a house a few hundred meters behind the first wave a white sheet. The colonel in the tower called for a cease-fire. After everything went quiet, the truck drivers scanned the area for more enemy. McCormick asked how many enemy the men had killed and where. They counted 19. Eby and a few others began collecting magazines. The tower also shouted

continued on page 38



McCormick and 1SG Jody Cuthbertson, McCormick's top kick at the gun truck company, with a convoy of fuelers.



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The Worst Place in Iraq

Army 1SG Arthur Abiera, Apache Troop, 1st SQDN, 33rd Cav Regiment, 3rd Brigade BCT, 101st Airborne walks a routine presence patrol on the outskirts of Sadr City, Baghdad. DoD Photo by SSG Russell L. Klika



Sgt. Eloy Garza, an infantryman with White Platoon, Comanche Company, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav, over-watches a street in Sadr City during the second day of Operation Iron Fury in the summer of 2004. U.S. Army Photo by Pfc. Erik LeDrew

Baghdad Slum of Sadr City is Hell On Earth

by Malcolm Beith

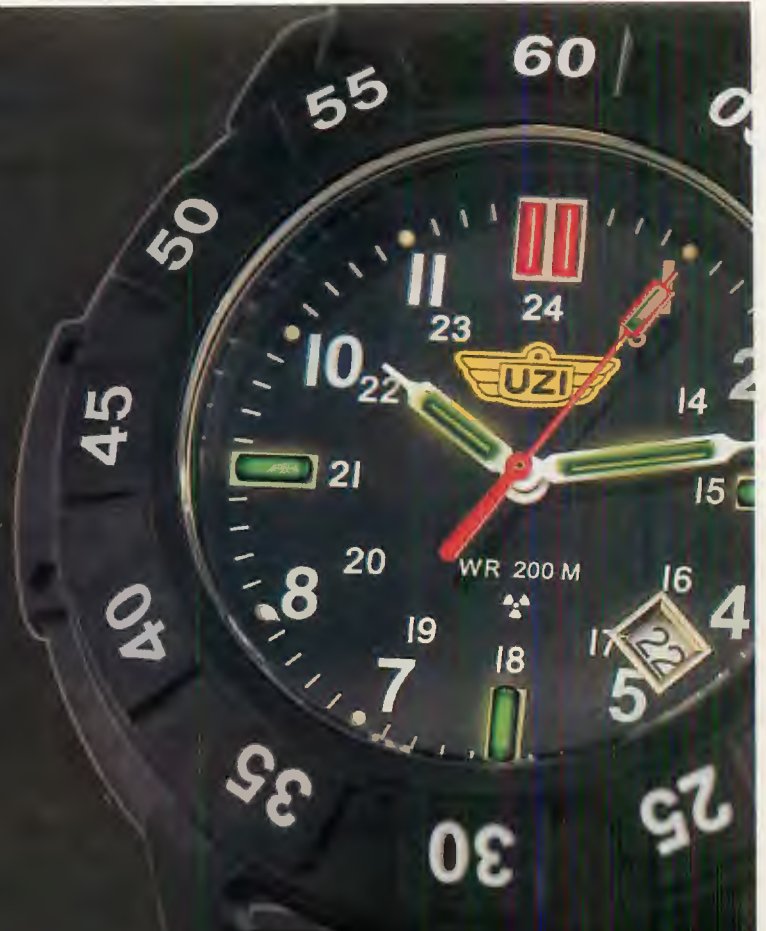
As his armored humvee cruises down the Baghdad road known as Route Grizzly, Captain Troy Wayman of the 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment looks out the window at Sadr City on his right. "The slum of all slums," he mutters. The humvee turns into the decrepit Shiite neighborhood, and Wayman — in charge of the

Military Training Team working with the Iraqi Army stationed in Sadr City — instructs his driver to step on the gas. The U.S. military convoy hurtles through the slum's streets at about 50 mph, passing row upon row of dilapidated buildings adorned with posters of Moqtada Al Sadr, dusty lots filled with burned-out cars, a handful

A Newsweek reporter takes a tour through hell with the U.S. soldiers charged with keeping it under control.



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of moving vehicles and the occasional pedestrian.

Suddenly, Wayman spots a group of young men standing on a street corner. "Was that Mahdi militia there?" he asks. His interpreter nods, and Wayman sighs, knowing that his convoy is now officially on the radar. "This is Sadr City. Nobody shits here without the Mahdi Army knowing about it," he says. The streets are lined with sewage water — "It ain't rained here in months," notes Wayman. "If we get pissed [at the locals], we splash them," he says. Looking at his digital map of the area, Wayman instructs his driver to take a hard right, straight into the heart of Sadr City's maze of dirt alleys. As his driver slows down to about 10 mph, Wayman realizes they've taken a wrong turn into what



Squalor, poverty, a generation of official neglect = the usual results in Sadr City: desperate people willing to listen to radical ideas. Iraqi Army 3rd Bn, 2nd Bde., 6th Division "Wareagles" conduct a raid in Sadr City in 2005, seeking insurgents and/or weapons. U.S. Army Photo by SPC Gul A Alisan

appears to be a cul-de-sac — and there's no room for the humvees to turn around. "You see that little kid duck into the alley?" the captain anxiously asks his interpreter, who

nods again. Wayman hops out of his vehicle and proceeds ahead on foot, while his gunner maintains a watchful eye from atop his vehicle. The captain passes a green metal



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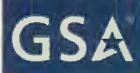
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Capt. Douglas Chapman, Co. B, 1-12 Cav, works with contractors to remove sewage from the streets of Sadr City. Under Saddam, this slum was known as Saddam City and suffered severe neglect to its infrastructure. U.S. Army Photo by Capt. Michael Martinez

gate covered in rugs hanging out to dry. A man holding his baby in his arms watches the intruders with concern, while two young boys stand behind their gate gazing out with curiosity. Returning to his vehicle, Wayman announces that there's an alley to the left through which they should be able to squeeze — if the residents move the car blocking the path. They do, and as the convoy passes through, the two boys flash smiles to the troops. There are “a lot of good people in Sadr City,” says Wayman. “[But] as long as they have that fear of the Americans, it's not helpful.”

From Liberators to Occupiers

Indeed, it is that fear — not to mention the hatred — of the Americans that makes patrolling Sadr City so difficult. The four square miles of shantytown on the eastern side of Baghdad is home to an estimated 2 million Shiites, all under the sway of the radical firebrand Al Sadr. The slum — a cluster of brick homes separated by dusty alleys and a handful of main thoroughfares — is deemed so lawless that U.S. soldiers dare not spend more than an hour or so in its boundaries. The standard patrol is conducted in a convoy of four armored humvees, and the U.S. soldiers rarely set foot on the dusty soil for fear of snipers. It's in-and-out, says Wayman during a meeting at a Coalition base prior to his Saturday morning round of the

Shiite slum. “Loose lips sink ships,” he says, explaining that within minutes of entering Sadr City, the Mahdi Army will know they're inside. “They're watching.”

At the meeting, the difficulties of keeping watch over Sadr City are evident. A group of Iraqi Army captains sit around the conference table discussing their respective Baghdad neighborhoods as they do at the end of every week. The mood is relaxed as these military men with nicknames like “Bokha” (“Rotten on the Inside”), “Olive Oil” (the smooth and lanky one) and “Piggy” talk about their latest efforts to crack down on the insurgency and crack jaded jokes about their successes and failures. But when the conversation turns to Sadr City, the banter grinds to a halt. Fifteen shootings, a mortar attack on Iraqi Army HQ, a fuel station blown up by an improvised explosive device, a firefight between militiamen and Sunni rivals at a traffic circle — and this is just a run-of-the-mill week, by Sadr City standards. A stern-looking American sergeant abandons his casual perch on the windowsill and addresses the room. “The reports we're getting aren't specific enough,” he says. “An explosion in Sadr City, that's what I hear. That's fine. But when a patrol's been on site for 15 minutes, he should be able to call back ‘who, what, when, where, why.’ That's taking a couple of hours. That's where there's an issue.”

continued on page 36



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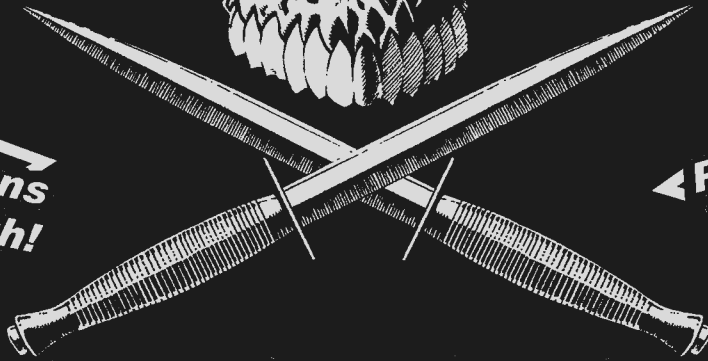


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The Bizarre Tale of “

A Soviet Spy, a Fleeing Cabinet Mini

By Jay M

Ernesto “Che” Guevara (he preferred Che alone and without quote marks) was the most traveled guerrilla chief of the Cold War. In each conflict that he was in he kept a diary. And he kept a diary before he became a warrior, too. After graduating from medical school in Argentina, he and a pal crossed the Andes on a motorcycle. The diary was published years later and became the basis of an adventure film, “The Motorcycle Diaries.”

Guevara used the diary he wrote during the Cuban civil war as the basis for a book, “Pasajes de la Guerra Revolucionaria” (Accounts of the Revolutionary War). After a few years he went off to fight in Africa. The African diary has had minor circulation; portions appeared in Jon Lee Anderson’s “Che Guevara”. His venture in Africa failed and Guevara returned to Cuba. Then he set out on a new adventure, this time in Bolivia. This would be fatal to him. Again Guevara kept a diary, daily notes in an ordinary, lined, German calendar pad.

Adventures, Mysteries and Voyages

Some 30 pages were missing in the diary taken by Bolivian soldiers. Perhaps Guevara had ripped

them out and torn them up, or the pages had slipped out as Guevara tramped over the mountains. Oddly, the diary was later published in a book edited by Dan James, a newsman based in Mexico City. It had the missing pages. Possibly the CIA had been able to commune with the dead Guevara and get the missing pages — or the CIA

had more of the diary than the Bolivians had, which would mean ...Guevara and the remnants of his band were captured 8 October 1967 by Bolivian Rangers trained by U.S. Special Forces. That same day, his hands bound, Guevara was shot and killed by a beer-fortified sergeant. The United States, through the CIA, wanted Guevara alive. The most important communist ever captured, he was a potential source of high-quality intel. But the Bolivian authorities feared Guevara in prison would attract supporters from all over the world. Also, his execution was a warning to any other troublemakers.

As soon as it was known that the Bolivians had Che’s diary, press reps hurried to La Paz and began a bidding war. David Reed of “Reader’s Digest” offered \$5,000. I was authorized by “Time”-“Life” to offer the same amount. And a well-known journalist, whom we



The girl with three other unidentified guerrillas is Loyola Guzman. She served with Guevara and is now a prisoner of the Bolivian army.

shall call “Dragon”, offered \$100,000 supposedly from “Time”-“Life” and possibly other publications. But behind this offer there was almost certainly another party: the Soviet Union’s KGB.

Dragon—Double Agent

For, you see, in addition to his journalistic work, Dragon was an agent for the Soviet service. U.S. intel knew this. In fact, after the Russians “turned” Dragon, the Americans turned him again, this time against the Russians. One can almost sympathize with Dragon’s efforts to sort out his loyalties. (Can’t use his real name. In the event of a libel suit, how does one prove an individual was an agent of a foreign power?) Why would Moscow want to see Che’s diary? For one thing, the Bolivian Communist Party had not provided any help to Guevara. The Russians probably wondered whether Che said anything about this. He did; the party chief was “treacherous.” The Russians would also have wanted to find out if Guevara discovered that one of his guerrillas was an agent of the East German Stassi intel service (Haydée Tamara Bunke Bider, alias Laura Gutiérrez



Guevara’s body undergoing medical examination.

Che" Guevara's Diary

ster and an Offer from Fidel Castro

Mallin Sr.



Guevara rides a mule somewhere in the jungles of Bolivia.

Bauer Martínez, alias Elma Tania, better known simply as Tania). The diary says nothing; Guevara didn't know she was a Soviet/East German operative, or didn't care. He knew her as an Argentinean, like himself. They may have been lovers.

Double Crossing Intrigue

So there is Dragon posing as a representative of Time Inc., and who shows up but Jay Mallin, the real "Time" rep. What does Dragon do? He goes to the local All America Cable office and wires the editors in New York, saying that Mallin is on the scene and pretending to represent "Time." The cable was not really meant for the editors; Dragon knew the

Bolivian authorities would read it and, hopefully, refuse to deal with me. And maybe they would throw me out of the country.

What Dragon was not aware of was that the All America manager knew me. He had been manager at the cable office at the Guantánamo Naval Base during the Cuban civil war, and I had used his

facility to send stories to New York, thus avoiding censorship by the government. The manager warned me of what Dragon had done. I was stunned. Dragon had been a friend. How desperate he must have been to have tried to put a knife in my back.



"Che" Guevara in the jungles of Bolivia in complete guerrilla array.

In the course of my trying to obtain the diary or a copy of it, I visited the office of Antonio Arguedas Mendieta, minister of the interior. Arguedas had possession of the diary. We talked about it; he walked over to a filing cabinet, pulled open a drawer

and, smiling, pointed inside. He said, "Not even for 'Life' can I show it." I didn't know whether he wanted me to peek inside. I didn't.

At some point after that, with the help of an unidentified newsman (was it Dragon?), Arguedas sent the diary to Fidel Castro. When it was discovered what Arguedas had done, he hurriedly fled the country, using a Jeep to cross the Andes to Chile (July 1968). The Russians and Cubans got their look at the diary. Was Arguedas perhaps rewarded with a fat bank account in Switzerland?

Gruesome DNA—Severed Hands Delivered

The Bolivian authorities had severed both of Guevara's hands to establish a positive identity. One or both of these, too, eventually went to Castro, who wanted to be sure his chum Che had died in Bolivia. Who sent the hand(s) to Castro? Antonio Arguedas. Guevara's diary and hand were not the only relics of his pal that Castro got. A team from Cuba's spy service, the Dirección General de Inteligencia (DGI), was ordered to obtain everything that it could of Guevara's. Headed by a veteran operative, Enrique Garcia Díaz, the team got Che's pipe, shoes, a lock of his hair and his Rolex watch (given to him by Castro and now purchased from the Ranger commander). The Cubans had difficulty obtaining the carbine that killed Guevara. So they stole it and replaced it with a duplicate. The team wanted to kill the sergeant who had shot Che; Castro vetoed the idea.

The DGI team was evidently the conveyance by which at least one of Guevara's hands went to Castro's hands. The surprises did not end. Fidel Castro himself announced that anyone who wanted a copy of the diary only need come to Cuba to



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U.S. Army Pfc. Kieith Collins, a gunner from 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Teddy Wade)

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My name is Mark Evans DM, and they all laughed at me when I told them I was going to buy millions of dollars worth of Real Estate from the comfort of my own home and without ever using my own cash or credit.

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I have found a way to do the things that everybody else told me would be impossible for me to achieve.

Life is Good

I must admit that I did not think that life could ever be this good. But, as I travel all across the country, I run across folks who have that certain "thing" in their eyes that makes me do what I'm about to do. I want to share this with you today. And, believe me, when I tell you what it is, you will quickly realize how you too can buy millions of dollars of Real Estate from home.

You see, I have created this system that has allowed me to do deals from anywhere in the world. So, after countless hours on my part of putting this all together in an easy to follow format, I have now broken it down into 7 steps for you. Anybody that is reading this could implement these simple steps and buy millions of dollars worth of Real Estate too!

You see, I think that we all deserve a "fair shot at the title". This is what I told my fiancé, and that is why I want you to get your Free copy of the CD entitled, "7 Secrets To Buying & Selling Real Estate From Home" in your hands today.

Imagine being able to buy that amazing home that you have been dreaming of for years now. And what about that sports car that purrs down the road with each shift? It's as if you have arrived and the world is your oyster...

Or, what if you just wanted to lay around all day knowing that all your bills are already covered, and you can get out of bed at what ever time of day you want...and NOT because you have to.

My friend, you have arrived!

I don't think you're reading this by accident because the scene that I just described is how myself and my students live our lives...and you can too.

Before I get ahead of myself, I want to zap the 4 biggest myths that surround Real Estate Investing.

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Estate investor

Myth Busted: Those that I have taught have controlled millions of dollars worth of Real Estate without ever putting a dime of their own cash into it. I explain how you can do the same thing on track #4

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Myth #3: I need to have a license to be a Real Estate investor

Myth Busted: After listening to track #6 where I expose the truth to you about this myth, you will quickly realize that only people who are not "in the know" still think this way

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Leron King, Huntington, WV

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Christine Rupert, Madison WI

Mark makes sense of using all of your resources to create many income streams. His hard-hitting and cutting-edge approach always makes the "light bulb come on" when you listen to him speak. He has personally helped me overcome many challenges in my Real Estate career. Maynette Boykin, Hayward, CA
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Before going up to the guerrilla camp, Guevara was in La Paz and traveled Around the Bolivian countryside reconnoitering the grounds for his future Guerrilla operations. With him is "Tuma," who served as his driver and bodyguard – and later as his double.

get it. With my record of anti-Castro writings, I doubted that the Cuban government would give me a visa to travel to the island. And if I did go, I would not know whether I was heading to a hotel room or one of State Security's cells. I talked with "Time" in New York. I offered and the editors accepted a nothing-to-lose suggestion, a one-in-a-million shot. I would send a cable to Castro, requesting him to send a copy of the diary to me.

I dispatched a cable, addressed directly to Castro, saying that I could not go to Cuba; would he send a copy to me?

Surprise! On 5 July 1968 I received a cable which stated, in Spanish:

WE WILL SEND (THE) MATERIAL ON SECOND VARADERO-MIAMI FLIGHT DAY FIVE STOP NECESSARY (YOU) CONTACT SEÑOR TAYLOR WHO IS IN CHARGE OF SAID FLIGHTS MIAMI

The cable was signed simply "RAUL ROA." Roa was the minister of foreign affairs. He had previously been a writer at the Havana daily "El Mundo". The English-language tabloid "The Havana Herald", where I had begun my journalism career, was in the same building and had the same owner. An occasional pre-civil war visitor to see Roa: Fidel Castro. The flights Roa referred to were twice-daily Pan American flights to bring refugees to the States.

Henry Taylor was the State Department's man in Miami, whose job was to maintain liaison with the exile community and to oversee the refugee influx. I contacted his office. He wasn't in. I asked about the packet from Havana. To my astonishment I was informed that Taylor had refused to allow the copy of the diary to be brought into the States. His reasoning: The flights were only for refugees and could not be used to transport "press" materials! I called "Time"; they called the State Department. State tried to reach Taylor, but he was off playing golf.



Gun in hand, Guevara posed here showing how a guerrilla gets ready for action in an ambush position.

That same day I received another cable from Havana: INFORM YOU THE NORTH AMERICAN AUTHORITIES IMPEDED THE DISPATCH OF REQUESTED MATERIALS VIA VARADERO

Is It A Bomb?

This message was signed "RAUL ROA MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS."

Further frantic consultations with New York. We decided that I would send another cable, this time to Roa. I did this, now asking him to send the packet to "Time's" correspondent in Mexico City, Bernard Diedrich. No reply; silence for days.

Then, on 16 July, a cable from Diedrich: CUBANS HANDED OVER PHOTOGRAPHS OF CHE'S DIARY PAGE BY PAGE... Diedrich had been phoned at his home at around 11 in the evening by a Cuban embassy official and told the embassy had a package for Jay Mallin. Diedrich says he exclaimed: "What is it? A bomb?" The next morning, at the embassy, he was given the copy of the diary — one page at a time.

We finally had Guevara's diary!

Where is the diary itself today? In all likelihood it is in the hands of Castro's government. In an interview many years after Guevara's death, however, Arguedas ambiguously referred to his having obtained a "copy" of the diary. Was his memory faulty, or was it indeed a copy he sent to Castro? A Bolivian army investigation found that Arguedas had "borrowed" the diary — or a copy — from President Rene Barrientos. Did the CIA, which had two agents on the scene of Che's capture, obtain the actual diary? In his interview Arguedas said the CIA distributed copies of the diary to the intel services of friendly countries.

A few years ago a London auction house announced that the diary would be auctioned. Shortly afterwards it withdrew the item. The owner was not revealed. Did perhaps some Cuban official put the diary up for sale to raise funds for the strapped government? Did the Castros get wind of this and decide they didn't want their pal's papers bought by some dirty capitalist?

The Guevara diary mysteries continue....

Jay Mallin Sr. has covered Cuba for more than 60 years. He was a correspondent for *Time* and other publications and was one of the original contributors to SOF. Mallin co-directed a study of the Cuban military for the Pentagon. He has written more than a dozen books, including *Fortress Cuba*, *Covering Castro* and *History of the Cuban Military*.



"6th Degree Okinawan Karate Black Belt and Former Marine Sounds Off About Matt Furey and all the Hype Surrounding his Combat Conditioning Program"

Every time I heard about Hindu Pushups and Hindu Squats I wanted to spit right in his face!



by Mike Storms

"What a liar this guy Matt Furey is." That's what I thought when I read this guy's hype-ende ads about his bodyweight exercise program called **Combat Conditioning**. Look, I'm no sucker for junk exercise programs. Not only have I lifted weights for years, but after 26 years in martial arts where I've earned a 6th-degree Black Belt in Okinawan Karate — and six years in the U.S. Marine Corps, I've seen it all. So to say I didn't believe **Matt Furey** when he said you can get kick-butt fit with his bodyweight calisthenics would be an understatement. Not only have I been in the USMC and been in martial arts for a long time, but I played football for most of my life and have served as the martial arts instructor for the **New Orleans Saints**. So there's no way I was going to fall for a rinky dink routine like Furey's.

Not only that but I trained with Jesse Kellum, who is pound-for-pound one of the strongest men in the world. At 220 lbs. he benched over 800 pounds and squatted 1000 pounds. I, myself, could bench over 400 pounds and dead lift over 600.

Pain, Pain, Go Away

Even so, despite my immense knowledge and background, I couldn't shake this nagging feeling that Furey might be right about what he was claiming, mostly because my shoulders, knees and back were in constant pain from my weight training routine. Yes, I was strong, but I was paying a heavy price. No one likes pain — I don't care how much you think you "can take it" — after awhile it's not worth it. And Furey's program promised to get me stronger and more flexible without all the joint pain I had. Not possible, I thought.

My main fear, other than being in MORE pain, was that I'd lose the strength and size I had gained from weights. Then I read about the **Great Gama** of India, a wrestler who followed Furey-style training — and he was unbeaten in 5,000 matches. In terms of size and strength, Gama was amazing. He was 5'7" and 260 pounds of streaming steel. And that was in the early 1900's — long before steroids.

I had heard that **Bruce Lee** did the exercises Furey teaches, too. And we all know about Lee's incredible ripped, lean, muscular look. Not to mention how lightning fast and fluid he was.

I also recalled how **Herschel Walker**, a **Heisman Trophy winner** and **All-Pro Running back** did 500 pushups and situps each day. So that made me think even more, especially because Furey's exercises were supposed to be far better versions of these pushups and situps.

A Swift Slap in the Nuts!

But the final straw for me was when I met Furey IN PERSON in November of 2001. Both of us happened to be in the same hotel in Phoenix, Arizona. I introduced myself to him and he politely shook my hand and nodded. I could tell he was in great shape, but I had no idea HOW good until I playfully flicked a punch at him later that day when he was walking down the corridor. Without missing a beat Furey reacted faster than a cobra. He slapped me in the nuts and kept right on walking. He never even broke stride. I stood in awe. I had never had anything like that happen to me. An hour later I met Furey in a restaurant, took out my Platinum American Express card and gave him carte blanche. "Send me whatever you have that will help me," I said. A few days later I received my first package from Furey in the mail and I've been hooked ever since.

If you think what you are reading is nothing but marketing hype — then let me ask you why do you think I now train the 350+ students in my dojo in Mandeville, Louisiana (Mike Storms Karate) in **Combat Conditioning**? I train young kids as well as adults in these exercises. WHY? Because they flat-out work. They boggle the mind while getting your body into ready-for-battle condition.

In Furey's **Combat Conditioning** he challenges YOU with a test. 100 Hindu squats, followed by 50 Hindu pushups, then a one-minute back bridge.

Let me tell you, when I first got the book I figured this test would be easy. I got started. At 40 Hindu squats my thighs were blitzed. It took about 90 seconds; not long compared to my barbell squat routine at the gym.

Next, I tried the Hindu pushups. Funny thing is my legs

were still shaking. I dipped down and pushed back. At 15 my arms were throbbing. This couldn't be. No way. I could bench like there's no tomorrow and this exercise was naking me. I stopped at 27 reps. This took about 1.5 minutes, so my workout had only been 2.5 minutes long.

Then the bridge. After three unsuccessful attempts of ten seconds, I had to stop. The next day my legs, chest and arms were sore, but in a good way. I thought my legs got 10 times more work with weights, but I was wrong.

Over the course of three months my body changed big time. In fact, I've made a list of 12 of the most amazing benefits that I and thousands of others all over the world have gotten from Matt Furey's **Combat Conditioning** program. I'm betting these are important to you, too.

1. I blow-torched off my excess body fat so quickly that I could eat more than I normally did and still look better than ever.
2. I packed and chiseled functional muscle onto my legs, chest and back that I've never had before, even from weights.
3. I simultaneously doubled my strength and flexibility — and did so without needing separate workouts for each.
4. I quadrupled my endurance inside of 30 days. Just think how much this helped my sparring. No matter what, I NEVER get tired.
5. The chronic back and shoulder pain I had from years of heavy squats, deadlifts and bench pressing went away within a couple weeks. And much of that pain had been with me for nearly 10 years. It's GONE now.
6. I sleep like a log. Eight hours of deep sleep is no longer a goal. It's automatic. As soon as I hit the rack I'm out like a light.
7. My self-confidence knows no bounds. Especially when I got compliments from people who hardly paid attention to me before. I honestly believe there is nothing I cannot do. I'm on top of the world.
8. I can train anywhere. I don't need more than a few square feet of carpet or pavement and I'm all set. I have absolutely no excuses and my body is loving me for it. I don't need any equipment. Just my own bodyweight.
9. I get a kick-butt workout done in 15 minutes or less. Sure, I could do more — but I've gotten incredible results with this amount — so why ruin a good thing?
10. I've turned back the clock. My friends tell me I look 5 — 10 years younger. Awesome!!

11. I have an explosive type of strength that weights couldn't give me. My movements are super fast even when I'm just screwing around.

12. My muscles are like a pliable and powerful tiger — ready to pounce on prey in a heartbeat.

So there you have it. The 12 reasons why **Combat Conditioning** is the best fitness program on the planet. I now do these exercises everyday and they are FAR easier than when I started. I won't go a day without them. But forget about me.

Take a look at what some others in the military have to say about this program:

Matt, I am a US Marine stationed overseas. I am also a wrestler/judoka and the Marine who developed the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. I use your courses regularly. I like your no-nonsense approach. Particularly as I get older, bodyweight exercises are quick, flexible, all-encompassing and convenient. Keep up the good work!

Lt Colonel George Bristol — USMC

Mr. Furey, We have been applying the principle of 'mastering your own body weight' to our football program and have been pleased. A 12 — 1 championship season last year was our reward. Thank you sir.

**Bonner Cummings
Yosemite, CA**

Dear Matt, When I got your book, I changed my whole way of thinking about how one should train for Combatives. I am now totally off the weights, and, to tell you the truth, I have never felt

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better or been more flexible in my life. I feel great and have lost no size, strength, or muscle mass... as a result I scored the maximum number of points on the Army Physical Fitness test. HOOAH! You are doing great things, and I and the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School owe you a lot. TREAT'EM ROUGH!

CPT Judd D. Mahfouz — Infantry

*Dear Mr. Furey, Let me say I have benefited a lot from both your **Combat Conditioning** and **Combat Abs** book. I am a Marine stationed on Okinawa, Japan and I do a lot of kickboxing and NHB fighting on the side. Your exercises have given me a tremendous advantage and combined with my other routines (shadowboxing, sparring, bagwork, wind sprints, and grappling drills) have gotten me into the best shape of my life.*

LCpl Sandor Devenyi — United States Marine Corps

*Dear Matt, Being a U.S. Marine in a field unit, I spend much of my time in Physical Training, and I'll admit, I thought that I was in peak physical condition. 2 months ago I began your **Combat Conditioning** program and quickly realized that I had been missing something. While platoon PT consists of mostly running and incorporates some bodyweight exercises (i.e. pushups, pull-ups, crunches) I had been spending the bulk of my personal training time in the weight room, lifting heavy. It embarrassed me the first time I tried to do a reverse pushup and couldn't. I haven't set foot in the weight room in the last 2 months. My 3 mile run time has dropped to below 18 minutes, I've lost a good 10 lbs and my body fat has dropped 4%. You can see the difference and God knows, I can feel the difference. I've introduced the rest of my squad to your program. Thanks for helping us kick ass and take names in a hellish and unforgiving manner.*

D "Bubba" Byng — LCPL, USMC

"Golf" Co, MCS Battalion

Matt Furey's *Combat Conditioning: Functional Exercises for Fitness & Combat Sports* has 48 super effective bodyweight exercises along with seven different programs that will get you into kick-butt shape fast. Order now and you'll receive 3 free Special Reports on how to eliminate knee, back and shoulder pain.

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continued from page 8
left in July — this was three months after the “last” POW was released in Hanoi. Those nine men captured in Laos amongst the returnees, I was told, were really captured by the North Viets along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. They were under Pathet Lao control,



which became a useful piece of official fiction for both Viet and U.S. government officials (note statements from U.S. and N.Viet officials of the time: “all POWs known under the control of Vietnam have been returned.”).

I can only confirm that I flew 600 feet or so from the recce birds flying directly over the camps with live POWs in them, but not the count — and I did not see them myself, as I was always busy looking for enemy fighters and gun sites while the recce bird did the run. I relied on what I was told post-mission and in the club afterwards by the recce pilots I flew with.

Three years later, as I was being interviewed for work in two certain intelligence agencies, my interview-

er — a personal friend — described his “second” specialty in that particular intelligence agency: keeping track and count of the POWs still in Laos. His story was that he could verify more than 250 at that time.

We Udom F4 crews were told by intel when I left SEA in July, 1973 not to make noise about the remaining POWs: The State Department, we were told, was “working behind the scenes” to get them out and any noise would make it difficult or result in their being shot. Now that I think about it, we were the only ones who had this information — other units did not fly the missions, our missions were secret and not to be discussed, so no one beyond us and whom we reported to in SE Asia were directly knowledgeable about the POWs and the numbers. Yet amongst the pilots at Udom, it was considered “common knowledge” between us.

We know that in 1975 or 76, after the Pathet Lao took over, that the CIA bought at least one of its agents back for about \$12million — this was actually reported in the media in

throw-away lines here and there. But the Pentagon and State Department were adamant about not buying back hundreds of military personnel; it would set a bad precedent we were told. That returning CIA agent — and a school teacher also captured and held in Pathet Lao headquarters, who heard names listed weekly — were said to provide the names of over 200 POWs in



Laos... but that part of my story gets into the realm of rumor and hearsay, not evidence. Nonetheless, it provided similar numbers to what I knew when I left and what my agency friend told me while working directly on that very subject.

Oh, and by the way, I was watch-

Continued on page 62

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Iraqi translator for 5th Cav points out a picture of Hojatoleslam Sayyid Muqtada al-Sadr on powerplant building. The fourth son of Iraqi Shi'a cleric, the late Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammad Sadeq al-Sadr, and son-in-law of Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir As-Sadr, Al Sadr does not hold any official title but is one of the most influential religious and political figures in the country. He commands strong support in Sadr City, and in June 2003 he raised the armed force known as the Mahdi Army, estimated to number several thousand. This resistance has several times engaged in violent conflict with Coalition forces and has formed its own religious courts and prisons. U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Ricky A. Bloom

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Indeed, once on the streets of Sadr City, the lack of communication between Iraqi Army soldiers and the Americans is evident. As Wayman's unit approaches a checkpoint manned solely by Iraqis, an angry look spreads across his face as he mouths the words, "Put your helmets on." With more than a hint of dismay, he mutters, "These are my guys."

Doing Their Best

Wayman admits the Iraqi soldiers who watch over Sadr City are doing their best. After checking in with Riadh Ahmed, a 25-year-old Sunni soldier stationed near the edge of the slum, the American turns to me and explains that they live in "hard conditions" in a dilap-

idated building with no air conditioning and "barely adequate food" — not to mention the constant threat of being killed by militiamen. "Do they need help?" asks Wayman rhetorically. "Yeah. But we're working on that." As for Ahmed, he's forthright. "Honestly, I'm not comfortable," he says in broken English.

But just because they're doing their best doesn't mean the Iraqi Army are necessarily doing enough. At a checkpoint that had been hit by an IED earlier in the day, Wayman has to repeat his basic mantra. After enduring the American's reprimand for not shutting off the road after the explosion, the Iraqi soldier in charge smiles politely. "This time we'll take it seriously," he says. "Absolutely," replies Wayman. "But you gotta put your helmets on."

As the tense 45-minute patrol comes to an end, relief spreads

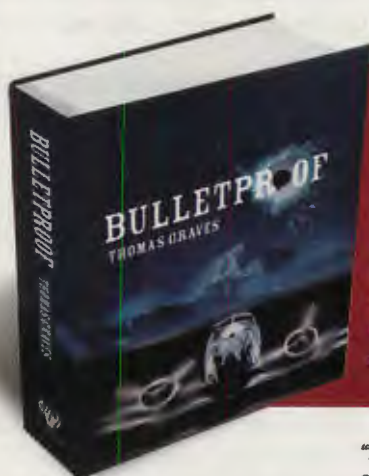


Staff Sergeant William Council, HHC, 3-15th Infantry, examines bomb-triggering devices found during an Iraqi Army raid on two insurgents' homes in Sadr City. U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Ben Brady

throughout Wayman's humvee. Cruising out of what appears on the surface to be a ghost-town, the captain explains that although Sadr City empties when U.S.

BULLETPROOF

By THOMAS GRAVES



American expatriate executive Richard Blackstone accepts a new assignment to head up the Latin American operations of a powerful U.S. multinational headquartered in La Paz, Bolivia. He quickly finds himself at the center of a massive scheme of corruption and deception involving drugs and terror networks that threatens his career and his family, and requires him to make decisions that will test his principles.

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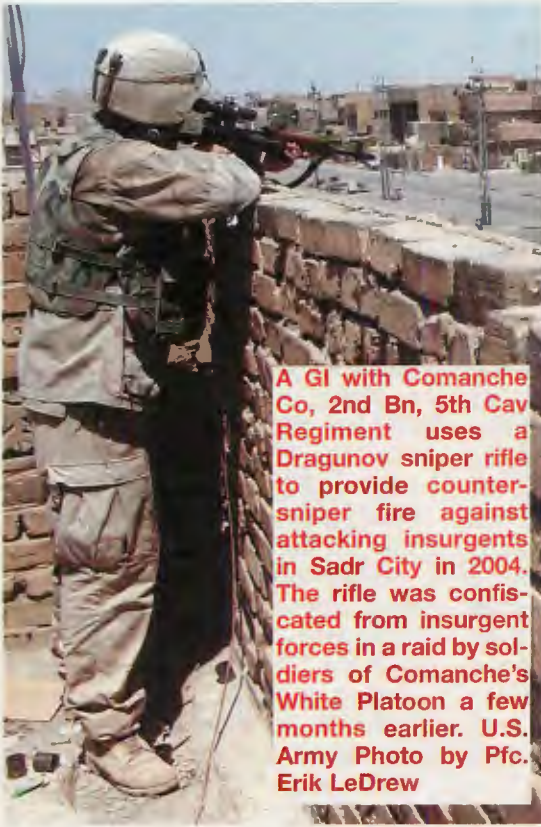
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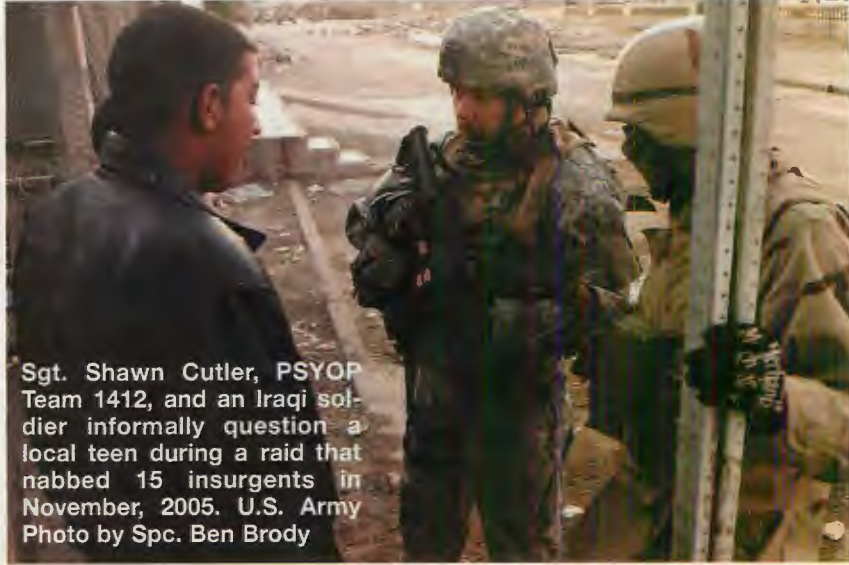
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A GI with Comanche Co, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav Regiment uses a Dragunov sniper rifle to provide counter-sniper fire against attacking insurgents in Sadr City in 2004. The rifle was confiscated from insurgent forces in a raid by soldiers of Comanche's White Platoon a few months earlier. U.S. Army Photo by Pfc. Erik LeDrew



Sgt. Shawn Cutler, PSYOP Team 1412, and an Iraqi soldier informally question a local teen during a raid that nabbed 15 insurgents in November, 2005. U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Ben Brody

patrols come through, it can turn on a dime. "The garbage is pre-positioned to block the roads — the Mahdi put that shit out there," he

says. "They don't take long to organize. They communicate. A U.S. patrol took a wrong turn last night, and half an hour later they'd blocked off the street." A few minutes later, Wayman's con-

voys takes another wrong turn, and hits what appears to be another dead end. As the tension mounts, the forward vehicle scouts out

ahead, passing a fruit-stand adorned with a poster of Diego Maradona. The signal is given: It's not a dead end after all, and Wayman's team proceeds back to the Ministry of Defense in silent relief.

A reporter/editor for Newsweek International, Malcolm Beith was an embedded reporter with U.S. forces in Baghdad last summer.

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Sweep out the cab of an average truck you'll net a pile of candy wrappers, cigar butts, water bottles. This is what you get when you muck out the cab of one of McCormick's rigs.

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down that the tanks were on their way. Eby backed his HMMV off the ramp to make room for a tank. The M1 Abrams tank then replaced the gun truck on the ramp. It fired its main gun at the house and worked the ground in front with the coaxial machinegun looking for any remaining resistance. Eby and Lehman passed out water and Gatorade to those around them and those in the tower.

First Lieutenant Coad arrived near the first ramp right after hearing the Abrams fire its first two main gun rounds and saw it fire the third. He also saw tanks clustered around the main gate next to the Bradley. He dismounted and told Sergeant Crouthamel to take the men in the LMTV up to the wall. Coad then went to get a SitRep. The two towers were still engaged by insurgents in two houses outside the wall and along an irrigation ditch. The building to the far right was two-story and the insurgents could fire down into the staging area. Coad's battery commander and first sergeant went to the south gate. First Lieutenant Elrod tried to get the tank platoon to clear the road.

The LMTV pulled up and Coad reinforced the first tower with an extra soldier. Since the colonel had control of the first tower, Coad took the LMTV to the next tower, several minutes away. He sent another soldier up the second tower and learned that they had counted 13 insurgents in black firing at them from the weeds. The crew of the Avenger said they had fired approx-

imately 100 to 125 rounds from the M3P .50 caliber machinegun.

Let Us Play, Too!

When Coad returned to the first tower, he ran into McCormick: Coad and McCormick had known each other from OBC and after a short hand shake both went into action trying to get things under control. As soon as the fighting had died down, people began to move to the ramp and wall, one group ran up and started firing wildly from a

berm 200 meter west of the actual contact. The 5-ton gun truck from the 1487th drove up and fired a few Mk 19 rounds. A Marine lieutenant walked up on the ramp and fired his pistol over the wall. Someone else fired an AT4.

Things were getting out of control: Coad and McCormick had to pull some people off the wall. About that time, rounds started coming from behind them. Coad ran over and told an Engineer offi-

cer to pull his guys off the wall and stop the people behind them from shooting. By then Lt. McCormick's ad hoc defenders from the 1487th and 1486th plus the M1 Tank that came up later had already taken the fight out of the insurgents.

No one conducted a battle damage assessment for three days. By that time, the bodies had been removed, leaving only blood trails. An Iraqi civilian and boy had been killed in the fighting. The soldiers on the gate claimed that the man had run out of the house with his boy, shooting. The soldiers did admit to killing four cows, one by a tank sabot round, but the village charged the Americans for 13.

The guard towers had only sent three spot reports of mortar and small arms attacks during the period from 1220 to 1305 hours. In the context of the fighting that continued across the Sunni Triangle around them, others paid little attention to this fight. It was not even a blip on the radar screen of battles that weekend. The description of the enemy activity from McCormick and the crews suggest

Continued on page 58

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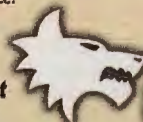
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USED Equipment: 6 GP Small Tents, 2 GP Large Tents, 5 KW Generator, over 100 wool blankets, dozens of mitten shells with trigger finger, over 1400 .50 cal ammo cans, over 300 20mm ammo cans, over 400 .30 cal ammo cans, 50 + metal large cans, 25 + wooded 120 mm ammo cases, 25 + 105 mm ammo cases, 25 + plastic shipping cases, approx. ten 30 gal. cans with lids, 200 + ammo pouches, 200 + canteen covers, 100 + 2 qt. Canteens, about a dozen sleeping mats, 10 sleeping bags, 200 + shelter halves, plotting board kit, 100 + mess kits, 9 Mermac cans, 6 frames for frame tents, 16 Test Set Telephone and accessory kits, 20 wood and aluminum cots, 40 + Cargo Straps, over 50 pistol holsters, duffel bags, dozens of laundry bags, 30 + air mattresses, Field Kitchen pots, pans and accessories, 100 + goggles and TA-50 to include 50 + steel helmets, 50 + helmet liners, dozens of camouflage helmet covers, ammo pouches, 30 + field packs, 100's of H & Y harnesses for field packs, 100 + pistol belts, 100's of sleeping bag straps, dozens of helmet chin straps, 100's of first aid pouches, 100's of field trouser suspenders, 100's of bed linens and hundreds of other items not yet inventoried.

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continued from page 14

trol, standby," followed by either a countdown from five, a short count from three, a command to compromise and fire, or to abort fire.

Shock And Awe

Toney said the command drills are performed in a series of coordinated actions and when performed correctly, help achieve a shock and surprise on an enemy.

In week three, shooters continue their rigorous training schedule learning skills such as explosive window-breaching, aerial platform shooting and the use of .50-caliber weapons. They also conquer the stress course, which tests their ability in firing, moving and maintaining communication among team members.

The Urban Sniper Course takes qualified snipers and allows them to hone their accuracy training, understand battlefield evolutions

of warfare, and to execute successfully in a crisis situation. Will Rivera, a former scout observer with 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, took this training back to Rock Hill, where he serves as a patrol officer and S.W.A.T. team member.

"I've completed two other civil-

ian sniper schools, and this is far and beyond what S.W.A.T. members learn anywhere else," Rivera said. "The instructors are extremely knowledgeable and thorough. The training here for long-range shooting is impeccable. Also, training at Camp Lejeune really brings back memories."



Marine snipers hit their mark. In two-man teams, Marines check for accuracy as the first round, known as a cold bore shot, hits its mark from 100 yards during an Urban Sniper Course with Special Operations Training Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

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Portrait of a

**SOF Chronicles a
Thrilling Saga of a
Former U.S. Marine
Who Helped Change
the Course
of its History**

By Dr. Martin Brass
Photos: SOF Files



Warrior SOF

A photograph of a Zodiac inflatable boat on a stand. A machine gun is mounted on a tripod stand in front of the boat. The boat has a yellow and blue logo with the word 'ZODIAC' on its side. The background is a plain wall.

“Death to Tyrants!!”

“Death to Tyrants” posters were plastered all over the SOF office during the bloody “Cold War”. The same theme filled the graphic pages of Soldier of Fortune Magazine, the journal that prided itself on being the voice of American warriors risking their lives, as well as that of the oppressed.

Clafin, along with the rest of the SOF team (not shown), recon the North Pacific Ocean coast line of Nicaragua in early '80's on a Salvadorian navy patrol craft. Clafin advised the Salvadorian armed forces for nine years during the conflict with the communist guerrillas; went on combat ops that U.S advisors were prohibited from going on by the loons in Congress.



(above) Clafin trained Salvo airborne bn in a number of specialties including use of night vision devices.

(right) Salvo grunts were appreciative of SOF's help, as evidenced here where a SOF decal decorates the butt stock of an M-16.



Since 1975, SOF had gained national notoriety through its graphic depictions of the carnage left on the blood-spattered battlefields of the Cold War.

The "Wild Bunch," SOF Style

SOF publisher, Lt. Col. USAR, (Ret) Robert K. Brown, who had fought the Communist aggress-

sors during the Vietnam War, and his wild, colorful assortment of combat journalists, dubbed the SOF 'Wild Bunch' trotted around the globe, camera in one hand, gun in the other.

During the 1970s, the SOF Wild Bunch were on the ground, reporting the events of the Rhodesian civil war, the Soviet sponsored war in Afghanistan, the U.S.S.R interference in Lebanon, in Cambodia, in Burma, and a myriad of other global hotspots.

Toward the end of that decade, the Cold War was again, as it had done in the 1960s Cuban Missile Crisis, edged far too close to home, creating a greater sense of geographical urgency than had the Vietnam War. Cuba and Nicaragua had fallen under the control of the Soviet Empire and as SOF saw it, El Salvador was next on the list of "dominoes" to fall, followed by Honduras and Guatemala.

The Legend of The Bearded One

The best known of those fighting the "forces of evil" was Harry Clafin— fearless, rough and

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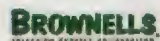
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rugged. Harry may have had as much impact on the success of the American effort in El Salvador as any single American.

I met many soldiers of fortune during those years, including Brits, French, South Africans and a number of Americans. The least memorable were those who were legends in their own minds, boasting endlessly of their conquests, real or imagined. Some who had served from Rhodesia to South Africa, to Lebanon and beyond spoke matter of factly of their adventures. The most fascinating of all verbalized with their wary, piercing eyes, not saying much. They didn't have to—they had fought ruthlessly in vicious battles and survived. Many of their opponents had not.

Harry was an American, a former Marine, tall, lean, scraggy, and just plain mean.

He served two tours in Vietnam as a member of the 1st Force Reconnaissance Company. After leaving the Marines, he worked overseas as a private contractor for four years as a weapons consultant for Agency for International Development (AID). He hired on



with the U.S. State Department as a security consultant, providing security protection for government VIPs traveling abroad.

At that time, Harry owned and operated Starlight Training Center in Liberal Missouri, which offered courses in outdoor survival, ranger type operations and parachute ops.

His expertise was a perfect match with El Salvador's ill equipped Air Force and Army who needed all the help they could get.

"The paratroopers were in effect, El Salvador's primary special operations, quick reaction force, and a natural attraction to SOF trainers,

Claflin a former Marine Vietnam vet, ropes up a Salvo trooper in a Huey.

most of whom have similar military backgrounds," Harry quickly discovered.

Gearing Up For An Adventure

I first met Harry in the mid 1980s in New Orleans when he was on his way back to El Salvador. He wandered absentmindedly in and out of the smoky

bars along the decadent, crowded, noisy Bourbon Street at night, the thoughts behind his furrowed brows and piercing brown eyes gearing up for action.

The ferocious, focused way that Harry attacked his lobster with his long sturdy fingers, his figure slightly bent over the table in a dimly lit restaurant on Bourbon Street, sent shivers up my spine.

I figured that he was merely gearing up for the battlefield. At least, I sure hoped he was when he would occasionally clasp his two hands together so tightly that his knuckles turned white, as if they

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were wrapped around a machine gun. He would absentmindedly pretend to aim at the ground, move his clenched hands from left to right and back, and mutter under his breath, "kill the cockroaches!"

Maybe it was the vodka, I told myself, intrigued by the bearded

Western style Crusader. He saw the partially eaten lobster on my plate, asked me gruffly if I was finished, grabbed it and attacked it with even more gusto than he had his own clawed feast, by now a pile of mutilated shells.

We met Harry again in Fort Bragg

Throughout the conflict, communist guerrillas operated through large areas of El Salvador's countryside. Guns and ammo, shipped to Nicaragua by Cubans, Russians and North Vietnamese, were smuggled by land and sea from Nicaragua and through Honduras. In 1989, a twin-engine plane from Nicaragua crashed, loaded with Sam-7 missiles, which almost resulted in the Salvo air force bombing Managua.

last fall, at a reunion of El Salvador vets sponsored by a member of the MILGROUP. The MILGROUP consisted of a team of 55 U.S. advisors at any one time that had been assigned to El Salvador to train the government

Harry was an American, a former Marine, tall, lean, scraggy, and just plain mean.

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troops. Congress, in its infinite wisdom, had limited the team to avoid another Vietnam-like escalation.

His hair and beard were peppered with gray, but I would have recognized him anywhere. You don't forget Harry. He still carried



Claflin, left, oversees instruction on the M-79 grenade launcher.

himself in that erect manner, full of self-confidence. He now had an aura of accomplishment about him, the restlessness subdued. He was a no bull, gripping storyteller.

For three days, he recalled with nostalgia the near decade that he had spent fighting with the Salvadoran army against the guerillas. He was back in the jungle, vividly and fondly remembering every detail as if each had happened that day.

His saga is that of how the war in El Salvador was won; that of a dedicated anti-communist Cold

Warrior – an untamed American soldier of fortune.

The Smallest Country in Central America Explodes

The twelve-year civil war in El Salvador was a culmination of five decades of violence riddled with coups and revolutions and government backed death squads that wreaked terror against their opponents.

In 1931, Gen. Maximiliano Hernández Martínez became ruler after a successful coup. The government's oppression of the citizens during his 13 year rule was highlighted by the massacre of peasants (*La Matanza*) who joined a resistance led by Communist Party chief Farabundo Martí. 30,000 were killed during the battle between Martí's band and Martínez's military government.

Oligarcial military dictatorships continued to rule in the coffee rich country until 1979, when a Revolutionary Government Junta (JRG), of military officials and civilian politicians figures overthrew the

While OPATT members got hung up in the political hullabaloo, Harry had no doubts – the El Salvadorans were fighting off the Commies, and they needed his help.

military dictator General Humberto Romero, head of the conservative Party of National Conciliation.

The U.S. administration of President Carter backed José Napoleón Duarte Fuentes, the exiled conservative political leader of the Christian Democratic Party. Duarte

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Clafflin-trained troops were aggressive and exceptionally effective.

returned in 1980 to El Salvador to head the military regime. The U.S. authorized the largest economic aid package ever granted in the Latin Countries.

Throughout the war, the United States poured nearly \$5 billion of economic aid into the country and over \$1 billion in military aid. The Salvadoran Air Force was the number one recipient.

Catholic Archbishop Romero had become the most outspoken opponent of the government that continued to deploy 'death squads' to assassinate political opponents. Thousands were executed. He urged the soldiers in the strongly Catholic country to defy orders of the political elites and objected to U.S. military aid to the corrupt government.

Catholic leaders in Latin America have traditionally wielded enormous influence.

For instance, it was an El Salvadorian priest, Jose Matias

Delgado, who rang the bells of the Iglesia La Merced in a cry for independence from Spain in 1811. Mexico and five Central American countries gained their independence after ten years of struggle. In 1938, the República de El Salvador was formed.

When Bitter Grieving Explodes in Savage Violence

In 1980, a brutal bloodbath of a civil war erupted in the tiny, densely populated Republic of El Salvador, sandwiched in between Honduras and Guatemala. One hundred thousand lost their lives in the blood baths before a truce was called.

The twelve year civil war was triggered when Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, head of the Junta's military intelligence, ordered Archbishop Romero's assassination.

Over fifty thousand angry, grieving country folks attended the

funeral of the beloved martyr. The highly charged funeral procession erupted when a bomb exploded, followed by a fierce firefight between anti-government demonstrators and military forces in San Salvador's Plaza of the Cathedral. Forty were killed, many of them crushed against a security fence as they fled the mayhem.

Four U.S. nuns working in El Salvador, accused of treason against the government because of alleged leftist leanings, were savagely raped and murdered the same year by government supported thugs.

The Carter Administration, torn between supporting a savage military regime that snuffed out its opponents and the fear of the spread of Communism, suspended military aid to the junta government.

Five separate leftist guerilla groups united, forming the Marxist Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN). The insurgents, convinced that they had popular support, with ill placed confidence expecting a mass insurrection, launched an offensive against the



government on January 10, 1981, just before President Reagan took office.

Although the armed forces trounced the poorly armed and trained rebels, the FMLN's offensive in 1981, which resulted in limited victories, alarmed the Carter administration.

National Interest Prevailed.

The fear of the fall of the Central American countries to Communism overcame the revulsion with the way the military government in El Salvador tried to suppress popular opposition. Within a week's time, the U.S. resumed aid to the military junta to the tune of \$10 million.

In spite of its defeat, the FMLN received international recognition and retained military strongholds in Chalatenango and other departments, where its forces settled in for the long-drawn-out civil war. Before the end of the year, France and Mexico recognized the front as a political player.

The staunch anti-Communism Reagan administration issued a special report, "Communist Interference in El Salvador" its first few weeks in office. The statement warned that the Soviet Union and Cuba were supporting and equipping the FMLN in El Salvador, just as they had the Sandanistas in neighboring Nicaragua.

Central America had become another violent Cold War proxy battleground.

The Military Group Goes To War

"El Salvador had a small armed force of approximately 10,000 military personnel and seven thousand paramilitary police in 1980 when the war began. The army, the largest part of the armed forces, had approximately nine thousand soldiers organized into four small infantry brigades, an artillery battalion, and a light armor battalion. The level of training was low...there was no training or preparation for fighting a counterinsurgency campaign. In short, it was an army that was not prepared for war," Airpower Journal summed up the shape of the rag tag El Salvadoran army in 1980.

By 1984, the El Salvadoran armed forces numbered 42,000, thanks to the United States. Five U.S. Air Force

officers were part of the 55 MILGROUP of advisers, along with several helicopter maintenance instructors. El Salvadoran troops were trained in the United States and at the Inter-American Air Force Academy (IAAFA) at Albrook Field in Panama.

As the U.S. Drags its Feet, SOF Jumps In

That's where Harry, who mainly understood the word 'participatory' in participatory journalism comes in.

"There is nothing the paltry group of 55 U.S. military trainers in El Salvador can do about it but bitch among themselves and get on with the task despite the frustrations of having their hands tied by political consideration. Making waves might swamp the leaky boat in which the soldiers float through their assignment in Central America," the straight shooting Harry, not fond of political correctness, told SOF readers during the thick of the chaos in El Salvador.

Oh, To Be 20-Years-Old For 9 Years

Enter the private sector of American society—Soldier of Fortune training teams.

SOF put Harry on the ground in El Salvador in 1984, then when he and the magazine parted ways, he worked for the El Salvador government until the war was over and "it wasn't fun any more."

"Why did I stay down there so long? Where else can you be 20 years old for nine years?" Harry reflected.

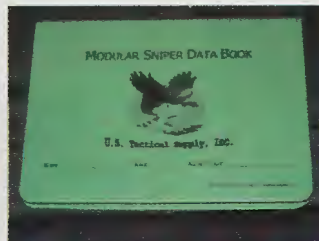
"Maybe it was the guilt of Viet Nam. Maybe I was making up for our never having finished Viet Nam, of never seeing a proper end to a war. To me I was doing something important and got a certain amount of satisfaction of doing a good job."

"The U. S. Participation was all about the dominoes effect," Harry relived in vivid detail his role in the El Salvador war, as if he had just stepped out of the bush.

"Nicaragua had fallen to the leftist Sandanista who in turn supported the FMLN in El Salvador. The fear was that El Salvador would go next, and Mexico was in a mess of a shape and could easily fall. Then, of course, the Soviet Union would be in our back door," Harry, who had been involved in the guerrilla war longer than any single American began his animated tale

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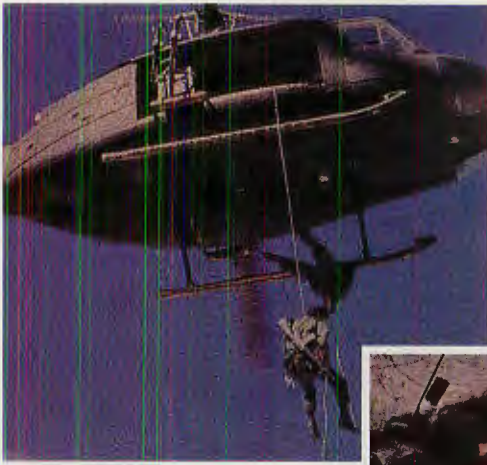
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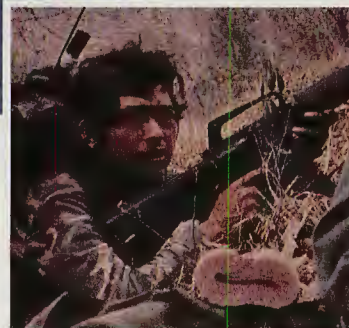
of how the war was won. Including descriptions of incidents that haven't made the history books, which included the El Salvadoran Air Force's plan to bomb Managua.

A Soldier of Fortune's Impact on Central America

"I met RKB at a SOF convention

in Las Vegas in 1984, and he asked me if I wanted to go to El Salvador to advise the Salvadoran military. I said yes without a hesitation," Harry remembered the meeting that launched the wildest adventure of his life.

In June 1984, Harry joined an SOF team that trained the Airborne Battalion—spear



The Airborne Battalion had the right stuff, as it had just fought off a major insurgent attack on the hydroelectric dam at Cerron Grande, which provided over half of the country's electricity.

The first tour lasted two weeks and the second one a few months.

headed by its Deep Reconnaissance Platoon headquartered at Ilopango Air Force Base a few miles outside San Salvador.

"I returned to Ilopango during November and December as an SOF-sponsored trainer. The battalion commander was glad to see me return and we quickly agreed on a curriculum concentrating on the Deep Reconnaissance Platoon, given my Marine Corps Force Recon combat background," Harry said.

A Subtle Invitation to the Battlefield

"After I got back the second time, I got a call from RKB," Harry continued.

"You want to go back? How long can you stay?" he barked in his gruff manner.

"How much?" I asked, as subtly. "\$1000 a month'," RKB roared back.

"Hell, it didn't take much to live in El Salvador and I decided to give it a try. I had been all over the world, in Viet Nam, in India and other parts of Asia, in Europe, and it was time to try something new," he recalled.

"Everything was in a shambles when I first got down there. I had to help them with the military's

Continued on page 58

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COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Farnam's Gunslinger Diary

By John Garnam

Battery-Powered Optics

A LE friend and range officer has had EOTech on his duty-AR for more than a year. It has run just fine all that time, serving well. During a recent range exercise, the illuminated reticle on the EOTech started blinking, indicating low power. He routinely carries spare batteries, so he popped in two new ones. To his dismay, the sight would now not even turn on!

On the way home, he was deciding how to ship his EOTech back to the factory for repair, figuring it was inevitable. However, when he got home he decided to check all his batteries. The original two were a year old, and, sure enough, on his battery tester they showed themselves to be nearly dead. Not surprising. What was surprising was that nearly all his spares tested mostly dead as well, including the two with which he had replaced the original two!

Bottom line was that his entire supply of "spare" batteries was stone dead, and he never suspected it! Such a simple thing could have had serious ramifications under the right circumstances. He learned, and we all should know, that just because batteries are not being used doesn't mean they are retaining power. Old batteries, even when still in the original packing, may be just as dead as batteries that have been in constant use.

Lesson: TEST — DON'T GUESS! It has been said that the next great world conflagration will be won by the civilization with the best battery technology. I suspect that is profoundly true. Batteries are the weak point of all powered optics, and one must know, not just hope, that "spare" batteries are good to go. "Old" batteries are bad news, even when they've done nothing but sit on a shelf!

I am persuaded that many of the "problems" that have been reported with EOTechs and Aimpoints are actually battery related.

Hi-Viz Pistol Sights And Trifocals!

This weekend, we had a student in a pistol class in Ohio who came to us wearing trifocals and carrying a G21. His pistol had the standard, Glock white-dot front sight.

He had great difficulty finding his front sight on various targets, and he was able to make little improvement. Finally, on Sunday, Vicki suggested he shoot her SIG239/DAK/9mm. It is set up with a light-gathering Hi-Viz front sight and a standard, SIG, rear night-sight. What a difference!

The green, Hi-Viz sight was easy for him to make out through his glasses, and he immediately realized a significant increase in hits, eventually passing our test.

The latest generation of Hi-Viz sights is much improved. Now imperious to solvents, ruggedized, and resistant to deforming due to heat, they are obviously a real boon to those of us with vision challenges.

They surely made a positive difference with this shooter!



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Reverse-Feeds

Fortunately, this phenomenon is rare, but I've seen it happen spontaneously several dozen times. It happened again last week when we were doing a Pistol Course in Pittsburgh. A shooter attempted to rack the slide of his auto-loading pistol to the rear, but he got his support-hand too far forward. As the live round, or empty case, ejected, it hit his hand, flipped around, and then dropped back into the receiver. As the slide then came forward, the round, or case, is fed into the chamber backwards, i.e., base first!

Of course, the slide subsequently fails to go into battery, and our "Tap-Rack-Resume" technique avails us nothing. Even our extended stoppage-reduction technique is not efficacious, as running the slide back and forth simply pounds the reversed/wedged case further into the chamber than it was at the start of the incident.

The result is a pistol that is out of action, at least for the short term.

The wedged case will have to be pounded back out, via a range-rod, from the muzzle end. It can surely be done, but not quickly.

Why even bring this up? Because it bolsters our argument for routinely carrying a backup-gun. Most "stoppages" are easily and quickly reduced via our "emergency-action" procedure, one that is taught in a similar manner by nearly every instructor I know.

A "stoppage" is, of course, an unscheduled interruption in the normal "cycle-of-operation" of our weapon. However, students need to know that, although most common stoppages are easily reducible, there are some, like a reverse-feed, that are not and will adamantly refuse to be fixed by any stoppage-reduction technique that is commonly taught.

For these, admittedly rare, occurrences, only a backup gun will get you back into the fight quickly.

Who thinks he needs to carry a gun, probably needs to carry two!

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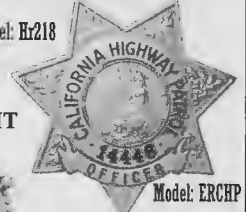


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Text and Photos by D. C. Hartman



Lone Wolf custom barrels for Glock pistols are finely made from the best materials.

"You can't shoot 9mm ammo in a Glock 40!"

"Wanna' bet?"

I contacted the folks at Lone Wolf Distributors (L.W.D.) in Old Town, Idaho and have received quite an education. I'm not brand new to Glock pistols (having shot, worked on, maintained and owned more than my fair share of the Plastic Fantastic's), and neither is Lone Wolf.

Lone Wolf sent me several barrels to compare and contrast with the Glock products. I must admit to being a confirmed Glock-a-holic and I'm proud of it. The Lone Wolf stainless-steel cut rifling Glock barrel's left-hand twist takes some getting used to while cleaning, because the Glock polygonal profile leans to the right, but it's no big deal once you re-train your wrist.

The Glock polygonal rifling, which I refer to as the squeeze-bore, works wonderfully well with most projectiles. But if you shoot lead or plated bullets, you will much prefer the cut rifling in the Lone Wolf product, because it gets a better grip on the bullet.

A close examination of Lone Wolf's barrels will reveal a much-improved feed ramp profile, which offers a more fully supported chamber, giving hotter loads more case support. SAAMI-spec loads will seldom need this feature, but +P fodder will. One wonders if

Glock will follow Lone Wolf's lead in this area. Please note that I've never seen a SAAMI spec or even +P load blow in a Glock, but it doesn't hurt to more fully support a chambered case to provide an extra margin of safety.

Apples vs. Apples

I did some tests using both barrels in my Glock 22. Both performed very well, with the edge going to the L.W.D. product. The Lone Wolf tube shot 1" higher, no big deal, as the competent shooter will pattern each barrel with the weapon's sights. Of course, the professional will test each load, barrel, part, sight and magazine with the individual weapon. Not to do so is foolhardy to the extreme.

If a weapon is not reliable or accurate, I'm not interested. I'm continually amazed when someone tells me their weapon is reliable most of the time! The good news is that both barrels performed flawlessly. Perhaps machinist-fit custom barrels might produce slightly smaller groups, but the drop-in Lone Wolf tubes gave me a slight edge in accuracy almost across the board.



Featuring land-and-groove rifling to better serve unjacketed or plated bullets, Lone Wolf produces a variety of calibers and variations including ported or threaded barrels.





Lone Wolf custom barrels are built to very tight tolerances for enhanced accuracy with no sacrifice in reliability.

9 mm / .40 S&W

Personally I can think of no reason why I would want to stuff 9mm ammo into my Glock 22, 23 or 27, unless 9mm ammo was the only fodder available. But that alone is a valid reason to be able to do so. Lone Wolf recommends using 9mm Glock mags when shooting 9mm ammo, but the .40 mags worked every time I tried them.

L.W.D. offers a dizzying array of barrels that can be purchased in extended, ported, or threaded configurations for the discriminating Glock shooter. Gem-tech has approved Lone-Wolf barrels for use with their suppressors.

G-35 / .357 SIG

I just had to test the company's .357 SIG barrel in my favorite Glock 35 practical tactical, a configuration not offered by the Austrian company.

This thing flat shoots, and shoots flat! Working out at ranges that would damage anyone's credibility, this combo leaves nothing to be desired. Using almost any load, hits can be made reliably at several hundred yards. I should note that loads from Federal, Winchester, Remington and Cor-Bon all performed to expectation and then some. Choose the ones that best fit your needs.

Lone Wolf's complete Glock Reference guide is the most informative manual I've ever read and whatever you do, don't even think of opening their 80 page catalog unless you've got a couple of hours to spare. If it's made to fit in, on, around or near a Glock, these guys stock it and their crew is amazingly helpful and easy to talk to. This catalog offers products from more than 65 manufacturers.

I've always been concerned about the R.A.M. concept: If a weapon isn't Reliable, parts Attainable and Maintainable I'm not interested. Lone Wolf Distributors and Glock ensure the R.A.M. concept.

I spend time in New Mexico and

Texas where the state police and the department of public safety issue the .357 SIG. The N.M.P.S. carries the Glock and the Texas D.P.S. the SIG. Both report phenomenal success if the bullets are properly placed. Remember, shooting things is just like selling real estate; the key is location, location, location. There is no substitute for accuracy.

If you can't control the intense .357 SIG cartridge, drop back to the .40 S&W 165-grain deferral Hydra-Shok round. If you can't control that combo, come back to the 9mm cartridge.

My only cautionary note would have you use great care when switching calibers, barrels and magazines. Shooting a 9mm round in a .40 might prove disastrous, as would shooting a .357SIG in a .40S&W. In practice, you won't like the results. On the street the results could easily prove fatal.

It's really cool to be able to shoot .40S&W, .357SIG and 9mm ammo from the same basic weapon, whether it's a Glock 35, 22, 23 or 27. If one adds the .22lr kit from advantage arms in Valencia, California, or the Ciener product from Cape Canaveral, Florida you would own the ultimate handgun combo. With this kit you can practice your Glock trigger and sights and pay for it in a few shooting sessions.

If I knew of a better weapons system than Glock's, I'd carry it. Lone wolf distributors have given me several new ways to improve upon perfection.

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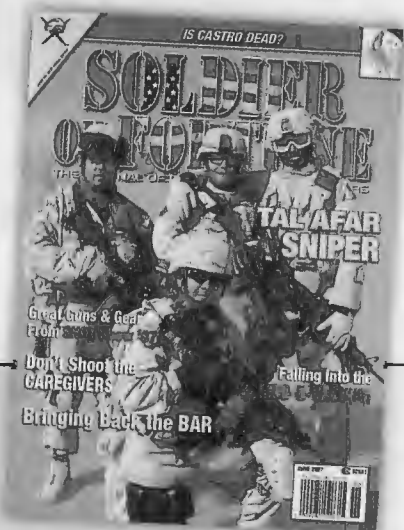


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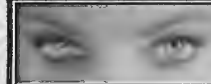
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continued from page 38

the insurgents were moving into position to attack at the time they pulled up on the berms. It is quite possible the insurgents had studied the guard activity and anticipated that the Avengers would be absent during lunchtime. Quite possibly, they planned to move into position right after the Avengers left, then attack. The distance of the two towers indicated the scale of the attack. Early in the fight all the rocket and mortar fire was directed at breaching the wall, which they failed to do. Only later in the fight did they drop a couple mortar rounds behind the wall into the marshalling yard. The impacts did no damage.

The Stitch In Time

The quick arrival of the 1487th



MSR Tampa is a busy – and heavily attacked – thoroughfare. A week before this story took place, the 724th POL Company lost seven from a convoy of 19 fuel tankers.

TC “Zebra” gun truck upset the enemy plans and began the fight before the attackers were in position. The majority of the soldiers, which included elements of six companies, watched in awe for 45 minutes as a handful perhaps as few as 10 truck drivers defended the south wall at BIAP, but did not join the battle. Few knew who the gun trucks belonged to, but credited them with saving BIAP from being overrun that Easter Sunday.

They would later learn they had defeated a larger-than-thought force of radical Shiite cleric, Muktada al Sadr. The timing of al Sadr’s uprising was the week leading up to an important Christian holiday, Easter; it was also the anniversary of the fall of Baghdad, and at a point after veteran Coalition units had been replaced by fresh units.

According to the truck drivers who witnessed the battle, the gun trucks had beaten back a well-organized and determined enemy attack. After this fight, the crew of the Zebra rested up and made four escort runs into the Green Zone on Easter Sunday 2004 — and each time met an ambush, and each time they fought through them. Few of the truck drivers had never been under sustained fire for that long — they usually cleared the kill zone as fast as they could.

The fight at the wall was the same as any other for McCormick’s

men. During the previous ambush, the Zebra remained in the kill zone for 45 minutes. The story of the gun trucks on the ramp, particularly the striped one, circulated among the truck drivers and grew into legend.

SSG Stewart, SGT Butler, SGT Lehman and SGT Eby received a BSM with V for the defense of BIAP and SGT Gregg picked up an ARCOM with V. McCormick and his crew went unrecognized for their valor and initiative. Dewey’s crew received commander’s coins.

An Idea Whose Time Has Come

The Easter weekend ambushes led command to recognize the need for gun truck companies. The 375th Transportation Group in Kuwait organized the 518th Combat Gun Truck Company (Provisional) and McCormick was hand-picked to be its XO and develop its tactical SOP. Four of the crew of his Zebra had been wounded that week in April, causing Noble to joke that anyone who rode with McCormick was guaranteed to get his Purple Heart. Counting the one Purple Heart he earned during Operation Desert Storm, McCormick finished this war with a total of three. Nonetheless, his entire crew volunteered to follow him to the 518th.

Good leaders seldom have any trouble finding good men to follow their lead.

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Mark Cheng, L.Ac.

Columnist & Contributing Editor, Black Belt Magazine

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That’s because 5 seconds is about all you’ve got. It’s how long a ‘real’ fight lasts. If you haven’t taken out some thug by then, the odds go dramatically against you.

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lets you **prove to yourself** why everything you’ve just read is true.

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AMERICA AT WAR

1 UNITED STATES

MYSTERY TERROR "FIXER" of 9-11, Adnan el Shukrijumah, running loose in United States, planning nuclear attacks on seven U.S. cities, warns *The Day of Islam: The Annihilation of America and the Western World* author Paul Williams, saying that long-time U.S. resident is armed and dangerous.

AL QAEDA FUNDING

TRACED from Iraq to cells world-wide: CIA Tracks funding from Iraq-based al Qaeda operatives to Pakistan's tribal territories. Donations to anti-U.S. insurgents, drug and arms trade, and kidnappings of rich Iraqis fill al Qaeda coffers. U.S.

TROOP INTERCEPT

REQUEST for funds from bin Laden's top deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri, to the late insurgent leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in 2005. **ANTHRAX MAILING ATTACKS** in 2001 linked to al Qaeda's chemical program.

5 PAKISTAN ATTACKERS BEAT UP United

Nations aid group, forcing UN to suspend activities in Pakistani-administered Kashmir. **ANTI NGO DEMONSTRATORS** threaten UN headquarters because of hiring of females: Two unmarried female members working for the American Refugee Committee (ARC) arrested for having a picnic in public.

6 INDIA BOMB BLAST IN 400-Year-old Mosque kills 16, injures 60.

2 SPAIN ARMS DEALER SUPPORTING TERRORISTS,

arrested at U.S. request: The Syrian-born arms merchant provided high-powered weapons to insurgents in Nicaragua, Brazil, Cyprus, Somalia. **FARC GUERRILLAS** were to receive up to \$13 million worth of small arms (machine guns, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and surface-to-air missiles) to protect cocaine crops. **FOURTEEN MOROCCAN TERROR** suspects arrested, surface-to-air missiles) to protect cocaine crops. **FOURTEEN MOROCCAN TERROR** suspects arrested.

3 ITALY TEN TUNISIAN TERRORISTS connected to al Qaeda arrested.

4 THE NETHERLANDS DUTCH HELL'S ANGELS

Motorcycle club legitimized by court that acquitted members of criminal arms-and-drug trafficking to terrorists. **DUTCH FORCES GEAR FOR ATTACK** from Venezuela in the Dutch Caribbean: 1,000 Navy and Coast Guard troops, one frigate and support vessel, 12 fast speedboats, three patrol vessels, two Fokker 60 patrol aircraft and two helicopters deployed.

11 ISRAEL SEVEN YEAR INTIFADA against Israel claims nearly 6,000 lives, 80% Palestinians. GAZA STRIP HAMAS AND FATAH WARFARE turns territory into combat zone.

12 LEBANON ANTI-SYRIA MINISTER ASSASSINATED. TWIN BUS-EXPLOSIONS in Christian towns of Bikfaya kill a dozen: BUS BOMB EXPLOSION kills 10. CIVIL WAR feared as Palestinian refugee camps explode with firefights between soldiers and militants. CAR BOMB factory found near camp.

- 7** **SRI LANKA** **TAMIL REBELS** use Czech-Republic-made aircraft as night bombers. Investigation finds weapons-purchasing Tamils operating out of Australia.
- 8** **AFGHANISTAN** **TALIBAN URBAN WARFARE** escalating as ambush backfires in countryside — 25 killed. Aerial surveillance exposes Taliban in open areas. **TALIBAN** publicizes U.S. “atrocities against civilians” in latest ploy. **INFILTRATORS IN TALIBAN** ranks tell U.S. troops location of commanders, Mullah Dadullan and Akhtar Mohammad Osmani, believed by Taliban to have been taken out based on spies’ intel.
- 9** **SUDAN** **GENOCIDE** continues as tens of thousands of displaced refugees die of exposure fleeing from Janjaweed ethnic militias and Government forces battling rebels.
- 10** **IRAQ** **TERRORIST RECRUITS WITH TECHNIQUES** honed in the war zone are dispatched to execute terror ops on U.S. and its allies. **ONLINE RECRUITERS** conscripted plotters to blow up Amman Airport in Iran: Muhammad al-Darsi, one of the plotters, serving life in prison, informed law enforcement. **IRAQI HUMAN SHIELDS USED** to repel U.S. forces, who have clear rules of engagement to protect civilians.



- 13** **TURKEY** **ANKARA SHOPPING-CENTER BLAST** kills six, injures 80. PKK Kurdish separatists suspected. **U.S. MADE WEAPONS** found on derailed freight train traveling from Iran to Syria, with firefights between soldiers and militants. **CAR BOMB** factory found near camp.
- 14** **KURDISTAN** **SUICIDE-BOMB BLAST** in Kurdistan Democratic party office in Makhmour kills 32 people and wounds 60. **NIGERIA** **MOVEMENT FOR THE EMANCIPATION OF THE NIGER DELTA** kidnaps Dutch oil worker with Dutch Shell, in speedboat terror op. Kidnappers demand oil revenues. **KIDNAPPINGS CUT** Nigerian oil production by 25% in last year.

- 15** **SOMALIA** **U.S. DESTROYER** deploys cruise missile to blow up al Qaeda stronghold in the north. **DANISH SHIP HIJACKED** on way to Kenya. U.S. warship destroyed three pirate speed boats, but pirates on board hijacked ship escape, by forcing Danish crew into Somalia territorial waters.
- 16** **VENEZUELA** **FREE SPEECH BLOCKED**: RCTV, which backed 2002 coup d’etat that dethroned President Chavez for two days, ordered shut down. Seven days of protest drive National Guard and anti-riot police into Caracas streets. **STRONGMAN CHAVEZ** orders 100,000 AK’s and expands his army to 2 million (with army reserve).

continued from page 34

ing a Vietnam War anniversary special on C-Span a few years ago (perhaps in 2001, before 9/11). One of the distinguished panel members was the venerable and aged Henry Kissinger. When asked directly by one of the members if there was any truth to the tales of POWs left behind, he replied something like, "Based on what we know now and what we knew then and other information, we did indeed leave many behind." I don't know if he referred to Laos, where it was fairly certain even at the time that all were left behind (except for those captured in Laos by N. Viet troops as noted above) or if he was referring also to those thought left in North Vietnam. However, those words were as close as I've ever heard from a senior government official (since the testimony of DIA chief Tighe after he retired) that there is official knowledge/acceptance of the existence of left-behind POWs.

I was somewhat surprised when I checked the news media the next day to find no mention of what I

considered a major admission.

I guess no one really cared any more....

LTC. Dana Drenkowski, USAR (Ret.), longtime SOFer returned to active duty after 9/11 for five years, including one tour in Iraq.

Situational Awareness

The picture of the two troops changing a magazine on the cover of your July 07 edition says it was taken "during a firefight" (I imagine that means as opposed to being a posed hoo-yah photo). As an old soldier who now wears hearing aids in both ears as a result of years of helicopters, military aircraft, and gunfire, I certainly understand the value of hearing protection. For the life of me, however, I can't imagine how one would wear ear-plugs during operations without sacrificing substantial situational awareness. My other comment is that those of us who had the option generally eschewed trying to be the prime mover of a two-legged armored vehicle and preferred the nimbleness and mobility that came with leaving the armor behind ("running recon" occasionally but the empha-

sis on the "running.>").

VR, John Conley
It's hard to tell from the photo, but most troops — and other shooters — wear hearing protection these days, including plug type, that allows normal hearing — thus preserving situational awareness — but reacts to sudden, loud noises such as gunfire or explosions — thus preserving your hearing.

DSC or MoH from the Eight-Klick Kill Zone?

Has Spc. Jonathon Kephart been put in for the DSC or MoH? From this article by the Warrior who was there and commanding, it would appear the DSC is more than earned and a sound case for the MoH can be made. I believe that if this action by Kephart had occurred in WW II, Korea, or Viet Nam, the MoH would have been awarded without question. I would like to know the status of any such Honors to be awarded to Spc. Jonathon Kephart, posthumously, and to his surviving family.

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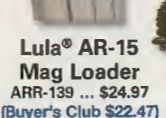
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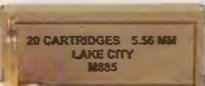
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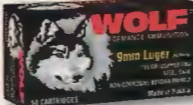
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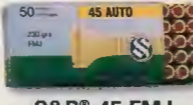
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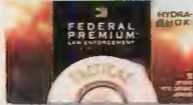
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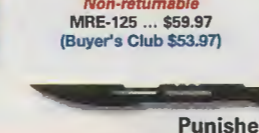
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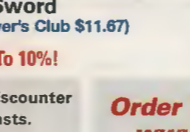
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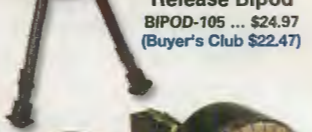
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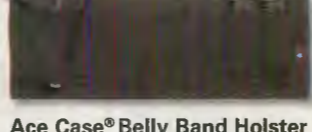
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Text and Photos by John Higgs

"A buddy of mine who worked at Lockheed's Skunkworks first told me about Dupont's Teflon-S® coating," Bob Ford, president of Rocky Mountain Arms told me as I examined various firearms in his Longmont, Colorado workshop.

"They used it to coat the landing gear on the U.S. military's high-flying, supersonic 'Black Bird' aircraft. We figured that if it held up to a temperature range from way below zero up to several hundred degrees it might make a good coating to protect guns. And we were right."

Ford christened his Teflon-based coating Bear Coat®. Teflon® is a very versatile material; there are about a hundred different grades for various requirements including friction application on industrial fasteners and chain saws, to rust and corrosion prevention on oil rigs, to machineable shapes. Teflon-S®, which Rocky Mountain Arms purchases premixed from DuPont®, seals the metal that it coats. It bonds at the molecular level with the steel or alloy, requires no additional lubrication to mating surfaces such as slide rails, or barrels and bushings, and just needs to be wiped clean. Rocky Mountain Arms can apply Bear Coat® to firearms in various colors including NATO green, navy gray, and Marine Corps coyote brown (tan). Black Bear Coat® comes in three finishes: flat, matte (a satin finish), and premium (a somewhat shiny black similar to a polished bluing). Typically, the only metal parts of any pistol that are not treated with Bear Coat® are the bore of the barrel and the springs.

Matte black has the best combination of protection and lubricity. Highly trained, experienced gunsmiths at RMA begin by completely disassembling the firearm. Each part is blasted with



1911 in standard Marine Corps flat coyote Bear Coat finish with micarta VZ Grips. Coating costs \$300 in most cases for this pistol. All surfaces except barrel bore and springs are coated.



This custom 1911 is produced by Rocky Mountain Arms and features the standard matte black Bear Coat finish.



Bear Coat camo finish features matte black and NATO green. RMA also manufactures suppressors like this one.



S&W Scandium 1911 features NATO matte green and matte Coyote finish and micarta VZ grips. Bear Coat adheres very well to steel, aluminum, or other alloys: substrate prep is crucial, and Bear Coat does it right.

a fine sand (another DuPont® product) to remove the existing finish, then any burrs on the parts are removed by hand. Steel parts are then parkerized, and aluminum alloy parts are anodized. This base layer gives the Bear Coat® something better than smooth, shiny metal to attach to. The parts are then heated to activate the thermal bonder (hardener) and the coating bonds at the molecular level with the steel or alloy. Due to its Harmonic Pliability—a result of the way the coating bonds into the metal—the finish doesn't flake off as the steel expands and contracts with extreme changes in temperature. Once it's on, it stays on.

But does it hold up? Mr. Ford told me about testing that one of the "big box" hunting stores did for an entire year in Alaska—a state renowned for harsh weather conditions that can grow rust even on stainless steel in short order. Bear Coat® kept the guns in first-class condition. A similar field test was conducted in South Africa. Several rifles were loaned to a group of outfitters for a year. They held up so well in the heat and humidity that when it was time to send the rifles back, the outfitters insisted on purchasing them.

Bear Coat® is available in various jungle and desert camo patterns to suit mission requirements. RMA also produces their own line of suppressors for Class III customers.

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John Higgs is a frequent contributor to Soldier of Fortune



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Soldiers from the 42nd Infantry Division slow down for a flock of ducks while patrolling Mosul, Iraq. Photo: SPC David J. Nunn

ON POINT - On their consoles at the "tip of freedom's spear," Bravo Crew, 49th Missile Defense Bn. (GMD), operates the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) portion of the Ballistic Missile Defense System. The system has been manned 24/7 at Ft. Greely, Alaska, since achieving limited defensive capability, September 2004. Located at Fort Greely, Alaska. The battalion comprises more than 200 full-time Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers, nearly 10% of the state's National Guard. Photo: Sgt. Jack W. Carlson, 49th Missile Defense Bn.

continued from page 10

The poll briefly described the rationales for and against "suicide bombing and other forms of violence against civilian targets" and then asked, "Do you personally feel that this kind of violence is often

justified, rarely justified, or never justified?"

Younger U.S. Muslims under the age of 30 were much more willing to accept homicide bombing in the defense of Islam than are their older counterparts, according to poll results. While 69% of Muslims under 30 said homicide bombings are never justified, 2% indicated they are often justified, 13% said bombings are sometimes justified and 11% said they are rarely justified. Only 9% of older U.S. Muslims said homicide attacks are at least rarely justified.

Alternative Internet for Troops

A recent DoD directive has taken effect, under which U.S. troops overseas lost access to several online links to family and friends. The DoD is blocking world-wide access to MySpace, Facebook, YouTube and 10 other popular video-sharing and social networking sites on its computers and networks. According to the Pentagon, troops can no longer use the military's computer systems to socialize via these sites - citing cost, security concerns and technological limits, such as bandwidth, as key reasons.

As a result, troops are creating their own websites and maintaining them through non-DoD Internet connections, such as those in Internet cafés overseas. One company, Web.com, is making it easy

for troops to work within online regulations with easy-to-use and affordable website-creation tools.

Web.com's tools help military families to create and manage personal, multimedia websites, with the ability to add photo albums, blogs, etc. The company has built more than 4 million Web sites for a host of military personnel, consumers and small businesses since 1995, and already helped more than 150,000 individuals establish a secure (password-protected) online presence. In December 2006, the company gave away more than 2,000 secure websites (free) to military personnel to kick-off the holiday season. These secure sites offer a "virtually home" experience and a communication portal through which soldiers can stay in touch, view and post pictures and short videos and share daily experiences - with little or no technical skills.

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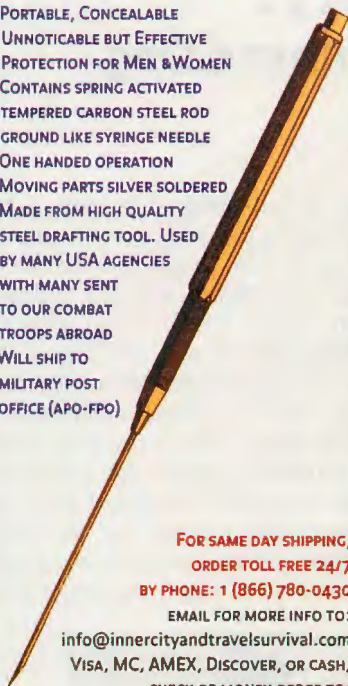
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continued from page 50

defunct communication equipment, then get their shabby uniforms cleaned up. From the time I went back, that's what I did, commo, weapons, uniform and equipment inspections, and jump once a week with the Bn.

Little Paradise, a Latin Dien Bien Phu

"It was now 1985 and I was sent up to El Parisio (the Paradise). Believe me it was anything but paradise, it was a little Latin Dien Bien Phu. It had been totally overrun three weeks before I got up there, when the guerillas had torn up the base.

"A young SF captain, Ed Phillips, who had no idea why we were there was in charge. I was with Rene Cárdenas, who was a retired SF Sergeant Major living in El Salvador as a translator. We went up and told Phillips what we were doing. He said we would have to get permission; he didn't want to have anything to do with us.

A Mission With the 'Slippery Slope' Team is Born

"Col. Ochoa was commander of the 4th brigade. Phillips called him and I laid down the plan—we were to train a unit as a direct action unit, which means you train them to go out and find guerillas and shoot them.

Phillips then calls Col Steele, the MILGROUP CO, who said

'Yes, you have the blessing of MILGROUP, and give Harry all assistance'.

"I was good to go, and that started my relationship with the Brigade Operational Planning and Assistance Training Team (OPATT)."

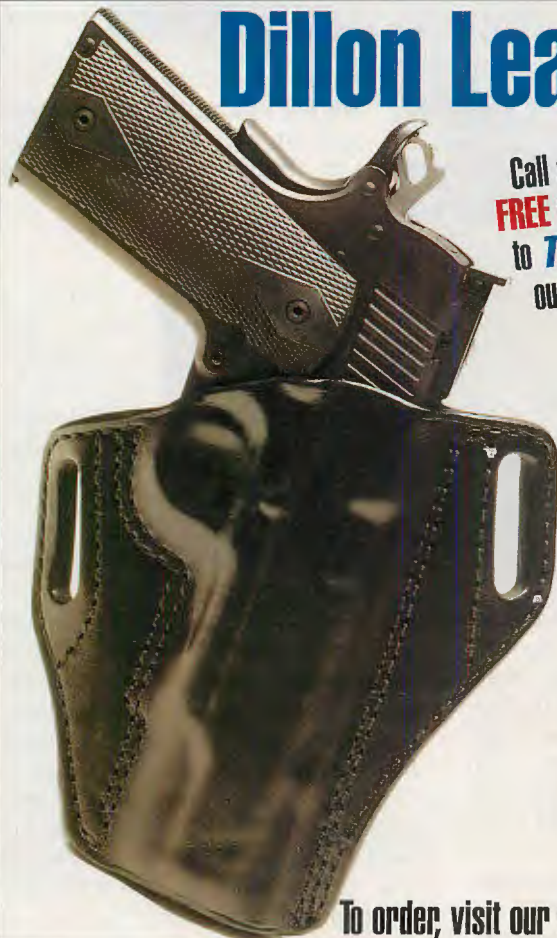
OPATT, dubbed the "slippery slope", was the controversial U.S. Army Special Forces mission to El Salvador. Anti-war critics warned that the adviser group was déjà vu, and would get us involved in another Viet Nam.

While OPATT members got hung up in the political hullabaloo, Harry had no doubts—the El Salvadorans were fighting off the Commies, and they needed his help.

NEXT:

Harry trains a direct action unit.

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One Example of How AmericanSnipers.Org Gets the Job Done

Photos: DoD

Dear Mr. Sain:

Hi, my name is TJ. I am a DM currently deployed to Iraq. We just got extended, so I will be spending another 6-7 months here in the suck! I am currently fielding an M14 but it could use some serious help. I have actually had to shelve it in the arms room due to the fact that my scope and stock were damaged in a fall, and the unit won't replace it: I have been tasked to work at the battalion level and they say my company needs to replace my gear (which is where it came from) but my company says I am tasked out to battalion so they need to replace it. Typical army BS! I have since been using an M16 with a 20-inch barrel and open sights with an M203 attached. I would really like to get the M14 up and gunning again. I can easily change out the stock and pretty much anything else as I have a decent knowledge of basic gunsmithing (working towards my degree). If you can do anything to help I would be forever grateful. There are a few other guys here who need various things for both M16/M4 and a couple M24's. If you can help I will get a list of some things we could use. I hate asking for handouts but I believe in my mission and want to complete it to the best of my ability. Thanks in advance for all you do. God bless.

Get me that list. BKS

I checked with the guys and it isn't much that we need all around.

Our team leader said he could use a sunshade for his Leupold M3 scope on his M24 and also any sort of medium ruck or rifleman's-type pack. If at all possible like I said I would love to get my M14 up and gunning, I could do so with some rings and a scope and I'm pretty sure I can work with the stock unless ya'll got those too. If that's not possible, a scope for my M16 would also get me in the action, it has a flattop upper so it's

ing a full-fledged sniper. I have learned a lot out here — and one thing is how to get the job done in way less than perfect conditions, with gear that's even worse! I appreciate what your group does for us and would definitely like to help out by doing some sort of fundraiser. One of my best friends and fellow snipers, Sgt. Leo Woods, was seriously wounded and paralyzed last August by an enemy sniper. He is now in a wheelchair. He is slowly regaining some move-



ment in his arm and we are hoping at the very least he will be able to

shoot again, if not ride his Harley. I promised him I would pick up where he left off and I'm doing my best. Thanks again.

TJ

Editor's note: This mission-oriented, Git'er Done trooper now has what he needs, thanks to the largesse from

[easy] to out-

fit. Other than that, some basic cleaning gear, surefire batteries, and maybe some extra scope rings. What ever you can send us I will either send back when we are done so you can get it to others or I will pass it on.

Once we get home I will be leaving active duty and joining the National Guard in hopes of becom-

Industry and from supporters from the public at large and the kind auspices of AmericanSnipers.org. We encourage readers to go to www.americansnipers.org and see what they need, how they work, and how you can help. This is an all-volunteer group of professionals: Every bit of help you can send in the form of gear or financial aid goes to the troops to help with their safety and their mission.





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Laser Devices' most versatile tactical light, the OPERATOR OP-6, now offers users even more options with a new Electronic Double Tap Switch (EDTS) End Cap. The EDTS is supplied with a remote cable port and a local activation switch.

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This year this prestigious award was presented to AmericanSnipers.org at the NDIA's annual meeting in Virginia. Dedicated to providing the U.S. Military Sniper with the best equipment possible, AmericanSnipers.org is a non-profit organization whose staff donates 100% of their time soliciting



NDIA staff and members of the American Sniper Association pose at the presentation of the 2007 Carlos Hathcock Award. From left, Brian Berger, Chairman, Small Arms Section, NDIA; Lt. Dave Jossart, Brown County, Wisc., Sheriff Dept. (ret); Dep. Douglas Bourdo, Kenosha County, Wisc., Sheriff Dept.; Maj. Gen. Barry Bates, USA (ret.), V.P. of NDIA; Det. Brian Sain, Port Arthur, Texas, P.D.; Cpl. David Agata, Coral Springs, Fla., P.D.; Ofcr. Mark Ratzlaff, Janesville, Wisc., P.D.; Mr. Russ Logan, Senior V.P. Militec, Inc., and Hathcock Award author. Photo: Robert Bruce

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For information on the NDIA, contact them at 2111 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 400, Dept. SOF, Arlington, VA 22201; phone: 703-522-1820; on the web at (www.ndia.org).

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Dedicated to preserving America's strength, the National Defense Industrial Association is a partnership between Government and Industry. The mission of the NDIA is:

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- ◆ To provide a legal and ethical forum for exchange of information between industry and government on national security issues.

Photo: DoD





Johnston found this enhanced iteration of the Mini-14 to offer worthwhile improvements in accuracy and features, and the SCAR-CQB stock to be extremely well made and to offer numerous options.

**Taking
Ruger's
New
MOA
Mini-14
To The
Tactical
Limit!**

THE TACTICAL MINI-14

Text and Photos by Gary Paul Johnston

Bill Ruger is reported to have once said that if the Mini-14 had been developed a year earlier the U.S. Military would have adopted it instead of the M16. How likely that outcome would have been is a matter of conjecture, but let's review some history.

As a replacement for the .308-caliber M14 rifle, General Willard G. Wyman, CG of the U.S. Continental Army Command (CONARC) had been looking specifically for a rifle similar to the M1 Carbine in size and weight, but firing a Small Caliber High Velocity (SCHV) cartridge, such as the experimental .224 Winchester, which was almost identical to the .223. After such a prototype made by Eugene

Stoner failed, the General reluctantly agreed to Armalite's downsizing the .308 caliber AR-10 to create the AR-15 and the .223 Remington cartridge. When the Ruger Mini-14 came along it amounted to a 3/4 size M14 firing the same .223 round.

Actually, the Mini-14 is simpler in operation than the M14, as it uses a fixed gas piston (or spigot) with what amounts to a cylinder housed in the end of the operating

rod. Whether you want to call the rifle's operation a long stroke gas cylinder or gas piston, it is definitely of long stroke. The point is that the two rifles otherwise operate almost identically, use almost the same controls, and even disassemble in the same manner.

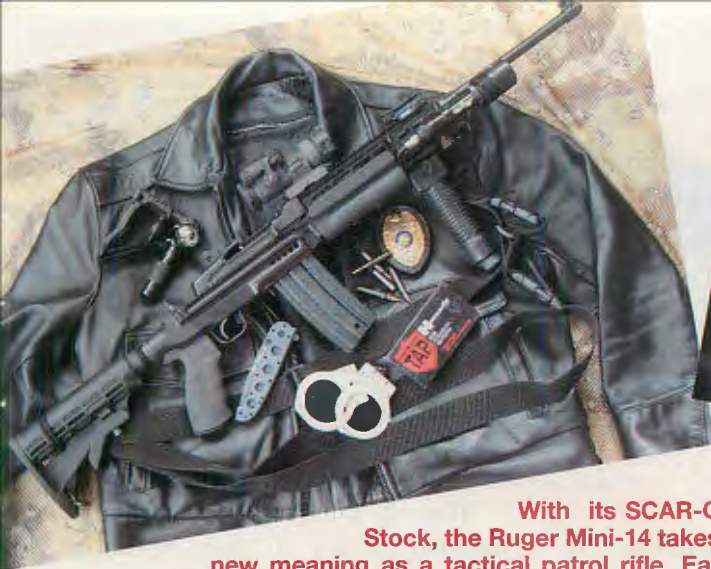
Although the Mini-14 was not adopted by the U.S. Military, the rifle was used by a number of foreign militaries, as well as hundreds of U.S. law-enforcement agencies,

and for all the obvious reasons: It was light, handy and extremely user friendly — and it fired the .223 Remington cartridge that had, by then been designated as the 5.56x45mm NATO.

However, where law enforcement was con-



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With its SCAR-CQB Stock, the Ruger Mini-14 takes on new meaning as a tactical patrol rifle. Earlier versions of the Mini-14 found great favor in law enforcement circles, and with newly available accessories and enhanced accuracy it is even more practical than ever.

cerned, there were no constraints limiting the ammunition used to full metal jacketed (FMJ) bullets, the major weakness of the 5.56mm. Not only are such bullets relatively ineffective against assailants, but they also tend to over-penetrate, posing a threat to others. Law enforcement, however, may select from the many expanding bullets on the commercial market, just as they do with issue sidearms.

In spite of the Mini-14's general military-like design, it came with sporting sights and a stock, which while comfortable enough, was equipped with a curved plastic butt plate patterned after that used on 19th Century lever-action carbines. Although Ruger had offered a more military-like version of the Mini-14, it soon stopped making it available to the public, along with high-capacity magazines, offering the rifle with only a 5-round magazine. Since the Mini-14 does not use standard AR-15 magazines this gave rise to a number of aftermarket high-capacity magazines for the Mini-14 that hold from 10 to 30 rounds.

The MOA Mini-14

Although never known for match accuracy, the Mini-14's reliability and ease of operation

kept it a popular rifle for both hunting and law enforcement. Now, for 2007, Ruger introduced a new version of the Mini-14 called the MOA Mini-14. Standing for minute of angle, the letters MOA speak of a new degree of accuracy, and more. In addition to producing groups half the size that earlier Mini-14's were capable of, the new rifle has improved, military-style protected sights and a modern rubber butt plate that

doesn't slip around on your shoulder. Available in blue or stainless steel, the MOA Mini-14 is also offered in a special heavy-barrel match version.

I recently obtained a standard blued-steel MOA Mini-14 for evaluation and found it to be a marked improvement over previous models. Not only is the new rifle much more accurate, but its military style sights are also appreciated. I was so impressed with the new Mini-14 that I decided to take it "tactical."




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While there are several excellent synthetic tactical style stocks available, such as those from Choate Machine & Tool and Hogue, I was anxious to try my expertise on the brand-new SCAR-CQB Stock from Clyde Armory, of Bogart, Georgia. Made of 6061/T6 aircraft alloy, this stock is essentially SAGE International's M14 EBR stock downsized especially for the Mini-14, and is made

by SAGE exclusively for Clyde Armory. The SCAR-CQB Stock is CNC machined to fit late and current Ruger Mini-14 rifles to perfection, and assembly is fairly simple.

After making sure the Mini-14 was unloaded and the magazine removed, I left it cocked and unlocked the trigger group by pulling the rear of the trigger guard down and forward to unlock it from the receiver. Then I removed the trigger group and then the barreled action from its factory stock and pulled the issue handguard off the



Here the Aimpoint Comp M3 is mounted on the SCAR CQB's handguard with the UniMax Laser in front.

barrel. The alloy handguard of the SCAR-CQB Stock is removed by unscrewing the machine screws that secure it to the metal stock. The stainless-steel liner may or may not have to be removed from the SCAR-CQB Stock by first unscrewing the retaining screw (mine did). The Mini-14 action is then assembled into the SCAR-CQB Stock in the normal manner, by closing the trigger guard to lock it in place, and this will probably be a tighter fit than when assembled into the factory Ruger stock.

Once the Mini-14 is secured into the SCAR-CQB Stock, the barrel does not contact the stock in any way and the handguard is then reinstalled by replacing the machine screws that hold it onto the alloy stock. Once these screws are properly tightened, the handguard becomes an integral part of the stock — but it also does not touch the barrel, leaving it free floating. Blue Loctite is recommended for use on these screws.

Operating the slide and inserting and releasing an empty magazine should verify that everything is assembled properly.

The SCAR-CQB Stock comes with an ERGO Grip from Falcon Industries and an M4 style buttstock adjustable for length of pull. In addition to a bolt-on polymer handguard, the forend and handguard provide four M1913 rails in order to mount a variety of lights, lasers, bipods and other accessories, and multiple sling-mounts



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are also standard equipment. I equipped the stock with a three-point sling from I.B.D. Products.

Since the Mini-14 accepts Ruger rings, a conventional scope can be mounted here, but M1913 rails that mount directly to the rifle's integral bases are also offered by Burris and Warne. While I was unable to obtain either of these in time for this review, these mounts should be available as you read this. Instead, I rigged a MOA Solution M1913 to the top rail of the hand guard. Available from Mounting Solutions Plus, the MOA Solution locks rigidly to any M1913 rail to extend mounting positions and eye relief to accommodate virtually any optic. A variety of optics were tested on the SCAR-CQB Stock, including the Aimpoint Comp M3, Eotech 553, Trijicon 4x32mm ACOG and a new scope:

The Combat Rifle Scope



Eotech's Model 553 sight is equally at home on the SCAR-CQB Stock. The stock comes with an ERGO pistol grip from Falcon Industries.

On the MOA Solution rail I mounted optics from Leupold, Trijicon and the new 30mm Combat RifleScope (CRS) from GRSC, of California. Equipped with a fast and simple range-estimating system and an illuminated reticle, this scope is calibrated for M855 62 grain FMJ ammunition fired from an M4 carbine, but the Mini-14's 18-inch barrel will also provide similar trajectory.

With its M4-62 [grain] reticle, the CRS has a 4 MOA horseshoe-shaped reticle with a 2 MOA window, six Mil-

Dots and 10-inch ranging circles (head size) out to 500 yards, with hold-over aiming dots, horizontal lead lines and an 11-position illuminated reticle.

Although I mounted the CRS on the MOA Solution rail, using only the rail on the handguard, I also mounted optics from Aimpoint and Eotech, and found this system to work

to perfection, as did Trijicon's 4x32mm ACOG, now standard issue with the USMC. Other long-eye-relief optics would work equally well here.

Lasers such as the 551VL from Insight Technology and the new Uni-Max Laser from LaserMax were also mounted to top and side rails of the SCAR-CQB Stock, where they worked perfectly. Weighing only a fraction of an ounce, the tiny UniMax fits any 1913 style rail, has an ambidextrous on/off switch and emits a powerful pulsing laser dot

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The MOA Mini-14's new rear sight (left) retains a military look and the peep aperture is adjustable for W/E. The new Mini-14 front sight is protected by two ears like that of the M14 rifle. The real news, however, is greatly improved accuracy due to now using hammer-forged barrels.

out to about 300 yards.

To provide a vertical foregrip and a bipod, I mounted a GripPod from Mounting Solutions Plus to the bottom rail of the stock. The stock was evaluated with GripPod's brand new rail that mounts rigidly to the GripPod.

To this new GripPod rail I mounted a SureFire G2 light using a 1-inch ring mount from VLTOR. Mounting at the 5 o'clock position, this system eliminates the need for any remote pressure switches with wires to snag. Instead, it positions the light to

allow the support thumb to activate an end-cap pressure switch. What's more, the GripPod instantly becomes a bipod when needed.

Adding about a pound to the weight of the standard Mini-14, the SCAR-CQB Stock offers a nearly endless number of options. With high-capacity 30-round magazines available from several sources, the Mini-14 becomes a serious competitor as a user-friendly tactical rifle in .223 Remington caliber. As such it may find great appeal among law

enforcement officers as a patrol carbine for all seasons. The many foreign military entities that issue the Mini-14 may also find this stock a valuable upgrade to its existing rifles.

Trigger Time

While we found an improvement in accuracy with the SCAR-CQB Stock over the same MOA Mini-14 in its standard stock, the results were hair-splitting as opposed to hair-raising. Using a scope and match-quality .223 ammunition, the sample Mini-14 produced 5-shot groups of 1.5- to 2

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Here the Leopold MR/T scope is mounted on the MOA Solution rail behind the UniMax Laser sight.

inches at 100 yards. Accuracy aside, the ergonomics and wide range of custom options make the SCAR-CQB Stock worth a serious look. As advertised, accuracy from the new Mini-14 proved to be a major improvement over its predecessors and no malfunctions were experienced.

If you're looking for a user-friendly, accurate and reliable carbine, don't overlook the new Ruger MOA Mini-14. For information, contact Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc., 1 Lacy Place, Dept. SOF, Southport, CT 06890; phone: 203-259-7843 (www.ruger-firearms.com). If you want to equip your Mini-14 with a totally rail-friendly stock, contact Clyde Armory, 165 Ben Burton Rd., Ste. D, Dept. SOF, Bogart, GA 30622; phone: 706-549-1842 (www.clydearmory.com).

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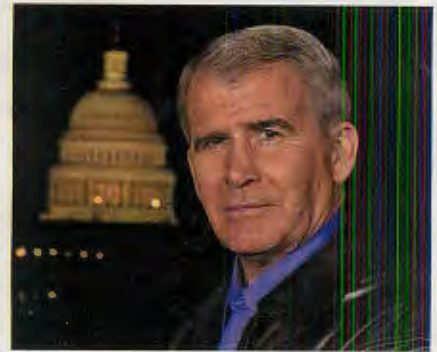
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Hitting the Jackpot in the War on Terror



CAMP BAUTISTA, Philippines — It was one of the largest payouts ever in the State Department's Rewards for Justice program: \$10 million to a handful of brave Filipinos who had the fortitude to stand up to terror. On Thursday, four of them courageously appeared at the nearby district governor's office with U.S. Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney and Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, chief of staff of the Philippine Armed Forces, to collect their share of the reward. The brief public ceremony may well mark the beginning of the end for the notorious Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), a radical Islamic terror organization affiliated with Al Qaeda and responsible for kidnapping and killing scores of Americans and Filipinos.

Information provided by the reward recipients — whose identities were kept secret to prevent reprisals — resulted in successful military operations by the Philippine military, in which two notorious ASG kingpins — Khadaffy Janjalani and Abu Solaiman — were killed. Two years ago, when our FOX News "War Stories" team was last in the Philippines, it was unthinkable that private citizens on this Muslim majority island would aid the Manila government in tracking down radical Islamic terrorists. But that was then and this is now — and a lot has changed in those 24 months.

The Rewards for Justice cash handed to four brave Filipinos is only part of the story. In fact, the rewards program dates back to the 1980s, when Ronald Reagan was president. But critics of paying rewards for information leading to the death or capture of terrorists have claimed that with Islamic extremism, tribal and religious loyalties trump the desire for financial gain. That may be true in some places, but it's not the case now in the Philippines.

What changed here aren't the motives or methods of the terrorists. The ASG and Jemaah Islamiyah — an organization that originated in nearby Indonesia — are both still committed to the tenets of radical Islam, to jihad and autonomous states governed by Sharia law. Their adherents take the lives of "infidels" with the same brutal violence as the followers of Osama bin Laden. Just three weeks ago, seven construction workers were kidnapped and beheaded. A good number of the terrorists here trained in Afghanistan back in the 1990s.

What has been altered is the approach being taken by both the Philippine and U.S. governments. Decisions in Washington and Manila — to wage this fight not simply as a military campaign against terrorists, but primarily as a battle for the hearts and minds of the people — are paying big dividends. As one Philippine officer put it: "Today we are making a difference in the lives of the people. It has taken time, but now they know they can trust us. That's why they cooperate with us against the terrorists."

When I asked Maj. Gen. Ruben Rafael, the commander of Joint Task Force Comet and the senior military officer in this remote part of the Philippine archipelago, for the secret to this success, he replied, "Patience, persistence and perseverance. Last Christmas none of my soldiers, sailors, airmen or Marines took leave because we needed to keep the pressure on the terrorists. It was hard on the troops, but it proved to the people we were here to protect them and that we are here to stay."

U.S. Army Col. David Maxwell, who commands Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines, fully supports that sentiment — for the Filipinos. But of the Americans under his command, he says:

"We're here on a temporary basis to help them put us out of work." Then the veteran Special Forces officer quickly added, "But none of us want to leave before the job is done."

The "job" for less than 160 U.S. Special Operations personnel here at what they call "Advanced Operating Base 150" is to "advise and assist" the Filipinos in their fight against the ASG. For these Americans from the most elite units in the U.S. military — who are used to doing the fighting themselves — this is a very tough mission.

The U.S. troops here live and work side-by-side with their Filipino counterparts in what they call an "austere environment." That's putting it mildly. This close to the equator, it is incredibly hot and humid. Among the 620,000 people who reside on this 345-square mile island are known and wanted terrorists. Yet, in the process of helping Gen. Rafael's troops hunt down killers, the Americans are building schools, holding medical, dental and veterinary clinics, paving roads and helping police solve crimes.

Maj. Matt Whitehead, the commanding officer of AOB 150, put it best when he described events like this week's Rewards for Justice payout: "All of us here, from the State and Justice Departments, the Agency for International Development and our troops work through, by, and with our Filipino counterparts. These successes make it all worthwhile."

Oliver North is the host of "War Stories" on the FOX News Channel. To find out more about Oliver North, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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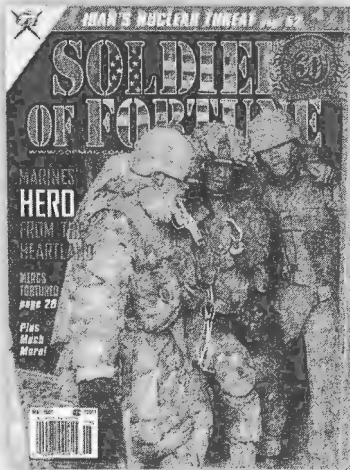
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